

# (APPROVED)



## Town of Plaistow - Highway Safety Advisory Committee 145 Main Street, Plaistow, NH 03865

### PLAISTOW HIGHWAY SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

**MEETING DATE** – Friday, June 16, 2017

**PRESENT** – Fire Chief John McArdle, *Vice-Chairman*; Michael Dorman, *Building Inspector*; Dan Garlington, *Highway Department Supervisor*; Greg Jones, *Town Planner*; Lisa Withee, *Citizen's Representative*; Michelle Auger, *Pollard School Principal*; Richard Latham, *Citizen's Representative*; and Sam Cafiso, *Alternate Citizen's Representative*

**EXCUSED** – Police Chief Kathleen Jones, *Chairman*

**ABSENT** – Arthur Wiggin, *Citizen's Representative*

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER** - 9:32 a.m.

**MINUTES** – J. Sherman motions to approve the minutes of 03/24/2017. Motion seconded by M. Auger. No discussion. None opposed. G. Jones and S. Cafiso abstained. Motion passed.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**- None

**NEW BUSINESS** – Resignation of Citizen's Representative Ernie Sheltry

Chief McArdle presents E. Sheltry a plaque for his 9 years of service on the Committee. J. Sherman motions to accept E. Sheltry's resignation, with regret. Motion seconded by M. Auger. No discussion. None opposed. Motion passed.

**NEW BUSINESS** – Brief update on the Joanne Drive project.

G. Jones briefs the Committee on a recent meeting he had with J. Kiszka, T. Moore, J. Barboni of Methuen Construction and REPC along with Alan Brigham the Regional Economic Development Administrative Representative with the Department of Commerce to walk through the upcoming process for the application for Joanne Dr. Further mentions an upcoming meeting with the Board of Selectmen, Alan Brigham and J. Kimball with the REPC in July to seek approval to move forward with application. J. Sherman would like the Committee aware of the project proposed, which would make Joanne Dr. the primary entrance to Methuen Construction. Explains how it would reduce traffic on Main Street. G. Jones mentions that Methuen Construction is interested in using Joanne Dr. D. Garlington mentions a gate Methuen Construction currently has. G. Jones states that they'd have 2 gates, which the public safety would have keys to. Chief McArdle suggests, as a condition, that it would be evaluated if it became a problem since the access gets them down further to the railroad tracks as well as additional water access and isn't convinced putting a gate at Main St. will be what the Town will want.

M. Dorman confirms that Joanne Dr. will not run all the way through to Main St. from Rte 125 and will end as a cul-de-sac. He explains that there'll be a driveway on Joanne Dr. for Methuen Construction, which will have a gate as well as driveways to any other project that may go in. D. Garlington mentions how if this occurred a few years ago, there would have been less of a need for the access road put in by Old Rd.

Chief McArdle mentions how GPS will still direct trucks traveling to Methuen Construction via Main St. M. Dorman asks if the address can change to Joanne Dr. because it will be a Class V road with a street

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name, which would then eventually be recognized by GPS. J. Sherman questions whether they can change Methuen Construction's address to Joanne Dr. G. Jones explains they are going to go through the process before the Board of Selectmen to accept the road and can suggest it in the process. M. Auger questions if the Committee can recommend that this happen. G. Jones believes if asked, they will most likely get it. J. Sherman suggests formally asking.

G. Jones explains that the application is for the roadway and needs to show to the EDA and Department of Commerce that it's for economic growth. At the recent meeting, they determined that the proposed office buildings for medical and the industrial facility would be eligible for the type of commercial development the program is set up for. G. Jones indicates that the EDA is not interested in the Town's truck traffic issues.

J. Sherman questions snow maintenance on Joanne Dr. D. Garlington explains that currently the plow trucks cannot turn around and must back out of Joanne Dr. D. Garlington indicates that creating a cul-de-sac would allow the trucks to turn around instead of having to back out.

J. Sherman mentions that the project could add jobs, tax revenue, and could improve the traffic moving trucks over to Rte 125. G. Jones mentions a bridge will be built to cross over the wetlands.

J. Sherman mentions the Town's plans for a new highway garage possibly at the Pen Box site, which would need to be factored in when making a decision.

S. Cafiso mentions that when the project was first pitched, it was stated that the existing gate would be locked except for emergency use. Secondly, mentions the GPS concern and how the Town could require Methuen Construction to list the delivery address on Joanne Dr. Finally, speaks about the need to have a dollar figure for the project to help measure out the pros and cons. J. Sherman mentions that a potential figure was provided to the Board of Selectmen. G. Jones indicates the estimate is \$1.6 million.

J. Sherman mentions a brief presentation given to the Board of Selectmen that showed increased valuation, payback time, and how it would pay for itself. J. Sherman explains that it would be a Town project supported by Methuen Construction.

D. Garlington comments how the Town should only be accepting roads, not building them. S. Cafiso indicates that the Town would be setting a precedent. G. Jones disagrees that a precedent would be set and explains the federal funding can only go through a municipal agency and not a business. D. Garlington states that if Methuen Construction didn't ask the Town to do this project, it wouldn't be looking at Joanne Dr.

**NEW BUSINESS** – Brief discussion on North Avenue.

M. Dorman explains that the City of Haverhill asked the Town if it would consider a weight restriction on North Ave. The Town was agreeable but NH DOT turned down the request because they don't allow weight restrictions on state roads. M. Dorman mentions that that if the Town took the road over from the state then weight restrictions could be implemented.

[illegible]

**OLD BUSINESS** – Update on status of a Public Hearing regarding speed limits on classified roads.

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Chief Jones unavailable to provide an update. Brief discussion held concerning speed in Town and the proposal to make all Town roads consistent with the same speed limit.

**OLD BUSINESS – Update on status of a Public Hearing regarding intersection at Jesse George/Old Rd.**

Chief Jones unavailable to provide an update.

## OLD BUSINESS – Update on Safe Routes to School.

G. Jones briefs the Committee on the project and mentions that it's still on point with the schedule and is currently working with NH DOT on the preliminary design. G. Jones mentions the shortfall scope of \$100,000 and possible funding through NH DOT. He explains that NH DOT is waiting to hear from the Federal Government on approval to proceed with the allocation of funds. Also mentions his meeting with the utility company regarding a few utility poles that might need to be repositioned to align with the updates in the sidewalk and bump-out plans. However, if the Town doesn't receive the additional \$100,000, the Elm St. portion of the plan might be removed entirely. D. Garlington speaks about easement issues if they relocate poles, as it could affect private property. G. Jones explains the alternative would be to leave the poles as they are which would place them in the middle of the sidewalk.

## OTHER BUSINESS –

R. Latham speaks about Palmer Ave/Elm St., the stop sign in the middle of the intersection and suggests moving it. D. Garlington mentions that he spoke with the state concerning this, however if they move the stop sign it would be on private property instead of in the right of way. M. Dorman suggests asking the property owner if the Town could place it on their property. S. Cafiso questions who owns the land where the corner was paved by Palmer Ave to Kingston Rd and whether or not that portion is considered part of the road. Suggests looking into it further and possibly ratify it while the property is for sale. M. Dorman will view the pictometry and call the state regarding this.

## OTHER BUSINESS –

M. Auger thanks D. Garlington for bringing the big trucks to Pollard School, the children had fun.

## OTHER BUSINESS –

S. Cafiso mentions the maple tree leaning into the street on Kingston Rd. D. Garlington indicates that the Arborist for Unitil looked at the tree and found it healthy but will continue to monitor it.

## OTHER BUSINESS -

G. Jones mentions the Pollard Rd and Congressional drainage issue and that he's received an updated proposal from Normandeau. Mentions that the Town has funds in the Transportation Capital Reserve Account for this and that he'll be going before the Board of Selectmen to find out how they'd like to proceed.

## OTHER BUSINESS –

G. Jones mentions the driveway permit for the Safety Complex and sidewalk maintenance agreement were signed.

## ACTION ITEMS –

#8. NH DOT syncing lights on Route 125. – D. Garlington explains that the state will not do anything until the road is complete.

G. Jones mentions the landscaping plan on Rte 125 and the safety/maintenance/fire issues and concerns regarding the center medians. Indicates how he was able to get low growing pine that is heat resistant and low maintenance.

J. Sherman continues to speak regarding the synching of the lights and whether any progress will be made. D. Garlington believes the state has a plan that's based on the speed limit. Chief McArdle

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believes they were synched when they finished the last segment of the roadway. J. Sherman inquires who should be contacted regarding this. D. Garlington suggests reaching out to District 6. J. Sherman requests that this action item be removed from the list and he'll speak with the Board of Selectmen and Town Manager regarding this.

#5. Review NH RSA regarding sidewalks. – J. Sherman requests that this action item be removed from the list as some research was completed and there is conflicting NH RSAs on this matter.

**ADJOURNMENT-** G. Jones motions to adjourn meeting. Motion seconded by M. Dorman. All in favor. None Opposed. Motion passes, meeting adjourned at 10:35 am.

## **NEXT MEETING DATES –**

**September 15, 2017**

**December 15, 2017**

Respectfully submitted,  
Sarah Gibbs,  
Recording Secretary