

(APPROVED)



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

PLAISTOW HIGHWAY SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

MEETING DATE – Friday, September 15, 2017

PRESENT – Police Chief Kathleen Jones, *Chairman*; Michael Dorman, *Building Inspector*; Dan Garlington, *Highway Department Supervisor*; Dee Voss, *Town Planner (arrived @9:50am)*; Michelle Auger, *Pollard School Principal*; Richard Latham, *Citizen's Representative*; Arthur Wiggin, *Citizen's Representative*; and Sam Cafiso, *Alternate Citizen's Representative*

EXCUSED – Fire Chief John McArdle, *Vice-Chairman* and Lisa Withee, *Citizen's Representative*

ABSENT – None

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

MINUTES – D. Garlington motions to approve the minutes of 06/16/2017. Motion seconded by M. Auger. No discussion. None opposed. All in favor except for K. Jones and A. Wiggin who both abstained. Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT- None

NEW BUSINESS – Request for speed limit sign on Hillcrest Road.

D. Garlington mentions that by posting a speed limit sign on the road showing it's a 30 mph road could actually cause people to travel faster and recommends not posting any signs. Chief Jones mentions her email with the resident, as well as the directed speed patrols the officers have done on Hillcrest Road. She indicates that during the patrols there were very few violators and states that she'll call the resident and explain our recommendation and offer out additional directed speed patrols.

NEW BUSINESS – Request for no thru trucking on Smith Corner Road.

Chief Jones speaks about an email she received from a resident on Smith Corner Road, L. Milette, who expressed her concerns about truck traffic on the road and inquiring if it could be posted as a no thru trucking road. Chief Jones mentions her concern of having too many roads posted as no thru trucking in Town. M. Auger questions what type of trucks the resident is concerned about. Chief Jones confirms it is tractor trailers. M. Dorman mentions that he hasn't observed many trucks on this road. Chief Jones will speak with the resident to gather more information and documentation.

Chief Jones also states that the resident mentioned a culvert on a curb that needs repair on the road. D. Garlington explains that the Highway Department is aware of the culvert but it will be a while before it's repaired. He mentions flooding issues that are occurring also due to the beaver population in the area.

S. Cafiso mentions that the resident spoke with him recently also and mentioned a traffic count that was recently done on the road and inquired as to whether or not we can obtain that data. Chief Jones will reach out to Rockingham Planning Commission to find out the results of the count.

OLD BUSINESS – Review of Walton Road.

Chief Jones explains her involvement and meeting with the residents on Walton Road along with D. Garlington and a Board of Selectmen Representative. As a result of the meetings, the road has been

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temporarily closed since December 2016. Further mentions that the Town will need to determine whether it will a permanent closure or not. Chief Jones speaks about all the positive comments she has received with the closure and understands other resident's comments to close their specific roads are not all going to be feasible.

Chief Jones states that she will have another meeting with the residents and that her recommendation as Chief of Police will be to close the road permanently, which could have minimal costs to move a hydrant and landscape. J. Sherman questions the hydrant issue. D. Garlington explains that the hydrant will need to be moved to give the fire trucks access to it. Chief Jones explains that she has spoken to Chief McArdle who indicated it is not too difficult to move the hydrant.

J. Sherman explains that this item is on the Board of Selectmen agenda for December 4th and how he'd like the Committee to meet before then to discuss the closure. Further explains that he'd like the Committee to vote and present the Board of Selectmen with their recommendation including any anticipated costs involved with closing the road permanently.

S. Cafiso speaks about how this closure could cause more residents on other roads to want the same and suggests possibly considering putting in parameters for future road closure considerations so certain criteria's must be met to close a road. Chief Jones agrees and explains the three criteria's used for Walton Road. Explains that she met with the residents and extended neighbors, brought the Highway Supervisor and Fire Chief in for any public safety and highway concerns. S. Cafiso suggests posting the criteria's on the Town's website. D. Garlington suggests positing a process that explains how to submit a request to the Committee.

OLD BUSINESS – Update on Safe Routes to School.

D. Voss briefs the Committee and indicates that they are still waiting on a notice to proceed which is imminent. Mentions how they are still trying to resolve the issue of who owns the fiber optic lines. Explains the lengthy process to relocate them if owned by the Town compared to if they are owned by an outside vendor. Chief Jones explains that they are more likely owned by the Town and explains that they have been disconnected for years and were originally installed when J. Scruton was the Town Manager.

D. Voss mentions that the next step will be bids once they get the notice to proceed. J. Sherman questions if it was specifically part of a Warrant Article concerning the fiber optics and if so, suggest finding the Warrant Article or minutes to help answer some questions in regards to ownership of the fiber optics. Chief Jones suggests D. Voss meet with the Town Manager, Chief McArdle, RMON Networks and herself to discuss the fiber optics.

D. Garlington mentions that the Town will be responsible for maintaining the sidewalks including their winter maintenance.

OLD BUSINESS – Update on North Avenue.

M. Dorman explains that the Board of Selectmen will not be moving forward on this matter and informed the City of Haverhill of the same. S. Cafiso questions what the Town said no to. M. Dorman explains that the City of Haverhill wanted to make North Avenue no thru trucking and in order to do so, Plaistow would have had to take ownership of the NH side of North Avenue from the State, which the Town is not willing to do.

ACTION ITEMS –

#1. Electronically distribute monthly Main Street radar panel reports. – Chief Jones inquires what the Committee's preference is on distribution of radar reports. S. Cafiso questions having them sent electronically and what is actually done with them by the Committee. Chief Jones explains that the police department runs the radar reports which shows when speeding is more active and uses the data for speed enforcement patrols. M. Dorman comments that the Committee really doesn't need to review

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them and are time consuming. S. Cafiso suggests that the police department just provide the Committee with general comments periodically on the radar panel reports. J. Sherman disagrees and mentions the States upcoming plan in a few years, which the reports could be needed for as a reference and would like to make sure the data, will still be available. Chief Jones confirms the data will be available when requested and confirms that she will no longer distribute the reports to the Committee.

OLD BUSINESS – Review of Walton Road

Chief Jones discusses Walton Road again and asks if the Committee should make a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen for their December 4th meeting. D. Garlington suggests holding off on costs related to the closure until the Board of Selectmen decide whether or not to consider the Committee's recommendation.

M. Dorman motions that the Committee recommend to the Board of Selectmen the permanent closing of Walton Road. D. Garlington seconds the motion. J. Sherman abstains. No further discussion, all in favor. Motion Passes.

ACTION ITEMS –

#5 & #6. Public hearings on speed limits on classified rds and the intersection at Jesse George/Old Rd.
Chief Jones explains that these are not completed yet.

#7 Pollard Road Drainage

J. Sherman explains that there is a recommendation for about \$40,000 to look at engineering for this.

#8. Stop Sign at intersection of Palmer Ave/Elm Street.

M. Dorman briefly mentions his conversations with the NH Bureau of Traffic and explains that they are moving forward to try to resolve this issue. Indicates that it's a State road and how there is room to move the sign back, which the State will be addressing. He also mentions drainage issues in the same area which they could also be reviewing.

OTHER BUSINESS –

- J. Sherman mentions a possible Market Basket development on Route 125 and whether there will be a connection/access road from it to Greenough Road. M. Dorman indicates that it is on the Town's plate should they be approached by Market Basket for any possible development.

ADJOURNMENT- D. Garlington motions to adjourn meeting. Motion seconded by S. Cafiso. All in favor. None Opposed. Motion passes, meeting adjourned at 10:25 am.

NEXT MEETING DATES – December 15, 2017

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Gibbs,
Recording Secretary