



APPROVED

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

PLAISTOW HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

MEETING DATE – Friday, April 18, 2014

PRESENT - Chief Stephen Savage, *Chairman*; Chief John McArdle, *Vice-Chairman*; Sean Fitzgerald, *Town Manager*; Michael Dorman, *Building Inspector*; Dan Garlington, *Highway Department Supervisor*; Leigh Komornick, *Town Planner*; Dan Poliquin, *Selectman Representative*; Lisa Withee, *Citizen's Representative*; Michelle Gaydos, *Pollard School Principal*; and Richard Latham, *Citizen's Representative*

EXCUSED – None

ABSENT - Ernie Sheltry, *Citizen's Representative*

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER - 9:35 a.m.

MINUTES – Chief McArdle motions to approve minutes of March 7, 2014, seconded by D. Garlington – No discussion – None opposed – All in favor but R. Latham who abstained.

PUBLIC COMMENT- None

NEW BUSINESS – Judge Pollard School's top six finalists in the Safe Routes to School logo contest.

M. Gaydos explains how due to time constraints the logo contest winner had to be chosen prior to the meeting today. A 5th grade student was the winner and received a \$35 Olympia Sports gift card and finalist from the 2nd, 3rd and 1st grade all received a \$10 Sanborn Candies gift card, there were no 4th grade entries.

Chief Savage shows the Committee the winning logo and mentions that it's already gone to Sign DeSigns for a quote for the lawn and street signs. S. Fitzgerald questions what the final choices for the signs were. Chief Savage briefs everyone on the final four signs. S. Fitzgerald comments how he believes the signs will work to help remind drivers they are on local roads.

Chief Savage continues to explain the chosen lawn signs which he would like to get 25 of each for residents to place in their yards.

L. Komornick confirms that the State will fund all the signs budgeted under the grant and mentions a quote she has received from Correctional Industries.

S. Gibbs requests clarification on which signs will be lawn and which will be street signs. S. Fitzgerald likes his sign suggestion, "If you drive fast you'll get fined" and would like to see it as a lawn sign. Chief McArdle inquires as to who will move the lawn signs. Chief Savage states that it will be the responsibility of the residents.

D. Poliquin questions the size of the signs and feels they are too big. L. Komornick mentions it was by suggestion of the State so they will be more visible to drivers.

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D. Poliquin continues to review the signs and disagrees with “Please Slow Down” as a sign, suggests the sizes be reduced, and to use the winning Safe Routes to School logo as its own sign with nothing else on it. Feels the suggested signs have too much wording to be able to read them as you drive by. Likes the sign, “Drive Like Your Kids Live Here” but it also might have too much wording.

S. Fitzgerald and D. Poliquin suggest the Committee come up with other possible language for the signs. Suggests possibly using the logos from the three finalists in the Safe Routes to School contest as the lawn signs and using “Go Fast, Get Fined”, as a permanent road sign. Chief Savage explains that he will get the first drafts from Sign DeSigns to show the Committee. M. Gaydos questions if the signs are double sided. Chief Savage confirms the lawn signs are.

Chief Savage questions when the Town can start implementing the Safe Routes to School Grant. L. Komornick explains that the Town is currently waiting for NH DOT to receive the Federal authorization to spend the funds, which she expects to get a response shortly. Once the authorization is received the Town can begin implementing the grant.

Chief Savage questions when changes will be seen at the Elm Street/Main Street intersection. L. Komornick comments that it won't be until spring 2015.

M. Gaydos briefs the Committee about her and L. Komornick's attendance at the recent TRSD School Board meeting. Provides everyone a copy of the PowerPoint they presented and how questions came up about stop signs. L. Komornick adds how a comment came up at the meeting about having a 3-way stop sign at the Elm Street/Main Street intersection.

S. Fitzgerald speaks about the Town's support of the Safe Routes to School Grant and how it is funding an additional \$100,000 on top of the funds received through the grant.

COMMENTS – Other Business.

M. Gaydos briefs the Committee on the upcoming Pollard School Bicycle Rodeo on May 17th and the amount of interest it's received already. Mentions that MPO Schiavone delivered helmets and other items for the rodeo and invites anyone from the Committee to attend and/or volunteer on the 17th.

COMMENTS – Other Business.

D. Garlington questions the status of the light being installed on Deer Hollow Road, which the Committee spoke about last fall. Chief Savage believes this matter went before the Board of Selectmen. D. Garlington explains his recent conversation with the resident who made the request and it hasn't been installed yet. Chief Savage believes the Board of Selectmen need to request the pole light be installed and will forward a copy of the minutes to them for reference.

COMMENTS – Other Business.

Chief Savage briefly mentions the upcoming meeting on May 8th with local truck and landscaping companies regarding the Town's proposed changes concerning no thru truck traffic.

R. Latham explains his concern that if the Town tries to keep trucks off side roads, it will force them on roads such as Main Street, Sweethill Road, and Kingston Road. He is concerned that this might put more trucks on Main Street and suggests increasing the GVWR limit.

Chief Savage explains how this matter was discussed at length previously and the majority would like to try to make these changes even if it's only a temporary trial basis. Mentions that a possible solution would be for the Town to take over Main Street from the State, but it's too costly to do so.

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D. Poliquin briefly mentions the swap the Town recently did with the State when the Town took over lower Main Street, which the trucks currently use to enter Main Street from Route 125 northbound since they can't make the turn at the light. Suggests the possible solution of closing the Town owned portion of Main Street to truck traffic.

Chief Savage suggests the Board of Selectmen meet with the City of Haverhill regarding south Main Street because their portion of the road would also need to close to truck traffic in order to avoid trucks entering it and then being forced to try to turn around once they enter Plaistow.

D. Garlington suggests trying to do something before the next phase of the Route 125 construction. D. Poliquin explains how the Board of Selectmen are in favor of closing the Town's portion of Main Street to truck traffic.

D. Garlington briefly mentions the decision that was made years ago on the GVWR of 12,000. R. Latham suggests increasing it to 18,000.

D. Garlington questions what the largest group of truck traffic the Town is trying to enforce. Chief Savage explains that the Town is trying to prevent it overall. D. Garlington agrees adding additional no thru truck traffic on certain roads could push them back on to Main Street.

Chief Savage speaks about D. Poliquin's suggestion to close off the Town's portion of Main Street to truck traffic and will place this matter on the Agenda for the next meeting.

COMMENTS – Other Business.

L. Withee mentions that the JRM trash pick-up trucks are still tossing the empty barrels on the side and in the roads. S. Fitzgerald will follow-up with Peter Gamache at JRM. L. Withee believes they are rushing when they are picking up trash and how tossing them in the road is a safety issue. S. Fitzgerald mentions that after speaking with Mr. Gamache, when this matter was first brought up, it was his understanding Mr. Gamache was going to observe his drivers to see what was occurring first hand. Chief McArdle mentions the barrels he's had to stop and remove from the road on Route 121A because of the safety issue they cause.

L. Withee suggests the Town hold a clean-up day like other surrounding Towns do every year. Chief Savage mentions an interest someone has already expressed to him about holding a "Plaistow Pride" day in 2015.

ADJOURNMENT- Motion to adjourn by D. Garlington and seconded by M. Dorman. None opposed – all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 10:12 a.m.

NEXT MEETING DATE – TBD

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah E. Gibbs
Recording Secretary