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

PLAISTOW HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

MEETING DATE – Friday, November 15, 2013

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*; Ernie Sheltry, *Citizen's Representative*; and Richard Latham, *Citizen's Representative*

EXCUSED – None

ABSENT - None

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER - 9:30 a.m.

MINUTES – D. Garlington motions to accept the minutes of 10/25/13. Seconded by R. Latham – No discussion – None opposed – All in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT- None

NEW BUSINESS – Discuss whether or not the planters located in the slip lane at Elm St./Main St. should remain in the slip lane over the upcoming winter months.

Chief McArdle brings the discussion about the plants in the slip lane and whether they should remain there over the winter and mentions a suggestion given by a resident at 1 Elm Street to plant them in the island next to the slip lane.

S. Fitzgerald mentions a store he's visited in Georgetown, which has large metal containers that could be more robust for the plants to survive in all year round. Also mentions that the Town received the Safe Routes to School Grant award, and part of the grant will be for reconfiguring this intersection, which is planned to start next year.

M. Dorman suggests having the Town's landscape architect look at the plants. S. Fitzgerald mentions how they have already fell over a few times this year. M. Dorman will have Mr. Bartlett look at them to determine if they will survive over the winter where they are located or if they should be planted.

D. Garlington mentions that the barrels previously placed at the slip lane are being used elsewhere and expresses his concern that the plants might not live if transplanted at this time of year.

Chief Savage questions the Committee if there are any concerns with placing the barrels back up over the winter. Confirms that everyone agrees to leave the final decision to the Highway Supervisor and Town Manager.

L. Withee questions if the radar message board will remain at the current location over the next winter near the slip lane. Chief Savage confirms it will be removed over the winter months.

D. Garlington comments how if its barrels or plants placed there, once the snow bank is created it will be up against them. Chief McArdle comments about road salt, which would kill the plants if a snow bank is

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pushed up against them. S. Fitzgerald explains that he's not opposed to placing the barrels back up for the winter months.

NEW BUSINESS – Discussion about possibly implementing a “Drive Like Your Child Lives Here” campaign.

L. Withee speaks about speeding in Town and suggests the Town implement a campaign especially with the recent award of the Safe Routes to School Grant. Suggests creating a subcommittee to get involved with the school and expresses her concerns with Safe Routes to School due to the speeding traffic.

S. Fitzgerald is willing to work to come up with a strategy that would help broaden public awareness. Speaks about the three best ways to help, which are education, enforcement, and infrastructure. Explains how there's already some infrastructure and enforcement in place but more work needs to be done on the education portion. Explains other programs he's seen such as, “Go Fast, Get Fined”, and mentions other communities where neighborhoods post lawn signs.

Chief Savage questions how much the Safe Routes to School Grant funding is for items such as signs and education. L. Komornick confirms \$10,000 is available. S. Fitzgerald believes the signs would be great and would like L. Withee to come up with a few samples and ideas.

Chief Savage mentions that he's more than happy to meet with the PTO, Pollard, and other school organizations to speak about the campaign and traffic safety. Explains how most speed offenders are local residents. S. Fitzgerald mentions how the Town will need to work with the school regarding the Safe Routes to School Grant.

Chief Savage suggests holding off posting any lawn signs until spring and during the winter months concentrate on meetings with the PTO and other organizations.

L. Komornick will provide Chief Savage with a copy of the grant, which shows the suggestion for a subcommittee to be created through the Highway Safety Committee with the school that could begin the plan for identifying where the routes are that the children walk.

Chief Savage would like to see some sign designs and asks L. Withee to provide some ideas for them. L. Komornick suggests kicking off the campaign with the next, “Walk to School Day” event in the spring. S. Fitzgerald suggests reaching out to other communities who have done similar campaigns and mentions how the signs will need to be strategically placed.

L. Withee comments about the speeding that occurs even on the Town's small residential roads and comments about the lack of pedestrian safety on the lower end of Pollard Road.

Chief Savage will inform the Committee when he is placed on the PTO's agenda via email. L. Komornick will provide Chief Savage with the contact information for the Pollard School PTO.

M. Dorman comments about the signs posted in Manchester, NH along the roads such as, “Drive Too Fast, You'll Meet Our Judge”. S. Fitzgerald elaborates how police enforcement helps and would also like to receive an overview of the traffic statistics from the radar units on Main Street.

R. Latham comments that many drivers are not local residents and that you will need to get residents to support the campaign. L. Withee believes if the local residents support it and follow the speed limit, others will follow.

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Chief McArdle mentions that side roads are chosen by drivers to avoid the lights on Route 125. S. Fitzgerald comments about the project on Route 125 that's planned to start in another year or so to widen the road, which will bring more traffic onto Main Street.

Chief Savage confirms he'll have statistics from the radar units for the next meeting and will also call the Highway Safety Agency to see about any possible grant funding for signage and education materials.

L. Komornick mentions a recent Rockingham County Planning Commission meeting she attended where RCPC is working on a regional master plan. Mentions the question asked to everyone was, "what can the regional planning commission do to help" and one of the top topics was the lack of transportation infrastructure and the way people drive on it. Believes the idea of working regionally could be beneficial.

S. Fitzgerald agrees and explains how it comes down again to the three points of education, infrastructure, and enforcement and more needs to be done on the education portion.

Chief Savage offers the suggestion of adding a member to the Committee from Pollard School. L. Withee suggests the additional member come from the SAU and suggests speaking with Earl Metzler. Chief McArdle explains the potential difficulty of getting a member from the school to attend as they have time restrictions. Chief Savage will speak Earl Metzler to see what his thoughts and ideas are. D. Poliquin likes this idea and agrees with L. Withee's suggestion about the member being from the SAU. Believes the other Board of Selectmen will agree.

D. Garlington explains how you need to be careful so you don't distract the drivers with too many signs on the lawns and believes there should be a limited number of signs on the roadways. L. Withee would like to see them placed throughout the Town strategically. Chief Savage likes the idea of moving the signs around and sees a value in it, also thinks some of the neighborhood associations would be willing to assist with this effort.

NEW BUSINESS – Discussion about a resident's request to have a light installed on the pole at the cul-de-sac at 5 Deer Hollow Road.

Chief Savage explains the concerns Deer Hollow Road residents have, which include the increase in cars speeding down the road, parking near the blue gate at the dead end, and recent break-ins in the area. States that the petition he received has the signatures of five residents from Deer Hollow Road.

D. Garlington comments that he's already looked at the pole they would like a light installed on. Chief McArdle would like to make certain the resident at the cul-de-sac where they are proposing the light be installed is on the petition. D. Garlington confirms that he's the one who initiated it.

M. Dorman motions to make a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen to install a light on the pole at the cul-de-sac on Deer Hollow Road. Seconded by L. Komornick. No further discussion. All in favor. Chief Savage will send a recommendation with the resident's petition to the Board of Selectmen.

OLD BUSINESS – None

COMMENTS – Lanes at Haseltine Avenue's Lights.

L. Komornick speaks about the lane striping at the lights at Haseltine Ave and Plaistow Rd and questions why both lanes can't be labeled as a straight through option. M. Dorman briefly explains how you would need two lanes entering the plaza across the road. L. Komornick suggests making the left lane a left turn only lane and have the right lane a right turn/straight through lane. D. Garlington explains how it'll not solve the issue at the light.

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COMMENTS – Site Development Plan

Chief Savage mentions that he has the site development plan for the old Shaw's Plaza if anyone would like to review it and expects demolition to start shortly.

COMMENTS – JRM Hauling & Recycling Services, Inc.

L. Withee asks about the status of the JRM action item she had. Chief Savage explains that he's spoken with them and how Sean has also done the same. Mentions his conversation with the owner directly about the trash and recycling truck drivers speeding and tossing the empty barrels and putting them in areas that they will be hit by vehicles. States how the owner has personally spoken to the drivers on these issues. Chief Savage would like to be notified if anyone sees these problems continue.

ADJOURNMENT- Motion to adjourn by Chief McArdle and seconded by D. Garlington. None opposed. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

NEXT MEETING DATE – TBD

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah E. Gibbs,
Recording Secretary