

(APPROVED)



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

**PLAISTOW HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**MEETING DATE** – Friday, November 21, 2014

**PRESENT** – Interim Chief Kathleen Jones, *Chairman*; Fire Chief John McArdle, *Vice-Chairman*; Sean Fitzgerald, *Town Manager*; Dan Garlington, *Highway Department Supervisor*; Dan Poliquin, *Selectman Representative*; Richard Latham, *Citizen's Representative*; Lisa Withee, *Citizen's Representative*; Ernie Sheltry, *Citizen's Representative* and Michelle Auger, *Pollard School Principal*

**EXCUSED** – Michael Dorman, *Building Inspector*

**ABSENT** – Town Planner

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

**MINUTES** – D. Garlington motions to approve the minutes of 10/24/2014, seconded by L. Withee. No discussion. None opposed. All in favor except M. Auger, who abstained.

**PUBLIC COMMENT-** None

**NEW BUSINESS** – Distribute new monthly Main Street radar panel reports for October, 2014.

K. Jones distributes the radar stats for October and indicates that from this point forward she'll send them electronically. Explains how each chart is broken down and mentions that currently the radar collects data on speed over 30 mph. Suggest increasing it to 35 mph in order to get more accurate data of violators going 5 mph or more over the limit. S. Fitzgerald comments how 1/3 of the motorists travel over 30 mph and questions if there is a consensus to adjust the radars to collect data at 35 mph.

K. Jones comments how the charts show the worse day of the week for speeders is Sunday and believes the radars have made an impact over the past several months. D. Garlington suggests placing a third radar unit by the railroad tracks.

S. Fitzgerald questions how the police department will utilize the data collected. K. Jones explains that the information from the data is given to the officers to assist in enforcement. Explains that with the officers seeing when speed is increases such as Sundays they can increase enforcement during those times.

S. Fitzgerald asks for traffic stops along Main Street along with the radar data. K. Jones explains that she can get these by date and timeframe.

K. Jones follows-up with the Committee regarding the current radar trailer/message board indicating how it does run radar but doesn't actually capture the data. However, the radar's message board can flash a message when a driver goes by it at a certain rate of speed. Distributes brochures on portable radar signs for the Committee to review before their next meeting.

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D. Poliquin questions how often the radar panels are calibrated as he believes the northbound unit might be inaccurate. M. Auger comments that it appears to only be 1-2 mph off. K. Jones and S. Gibbs confirm they have been calibrated.

S. Fitzgerald comments on how the data will help improve police enforcement and safety.

## **NEW BUSINESS – Discuss south Main Street options with NH DOT, Division VI.**

K. Jones introduces Kevin Russell from NH DOT to the Committee. D. Poliquin begins by commenting about drainage issues by North Avenue. D. Garlington explains that there are a lot of drainage issues with front lawns on North Avenue.

K. Russell states that any issues such as the drainage should be brought to NH DOT's attention so they are aware of it and can look into it. Explains that NH DOT can then decide what priority level it is. Mentions data recently collected regarding drainage data throughout the State by UNH. This data will help NH DOT decide which ones are priorities. Mentions there are 129 lines of criteria.

S. Fitzgerald mentions watersheds on Route 121A and wonders if they are impaired by drainage issues. K. Russell suggests speaking with UNH to see if any of the watersheds have been listed as a priority.

D. Garlington mentions the drainage issues on Main Street/North Avenue is most likely caused by the profile of the road. K. Russell suggests this be addressed at the maintenance level of NH DOT and suggests speaking with Chad Hayes in utilities.

D. Garlington also mentions that there are manholes that are sitting too low and finds some are an odd size which makes some inserts that are used by NH DOT not fit. K. Russell suggests the Town send a letter to C. Hayes and if they can't help to let him know.

D. Poliquin questions who handles the non-utility catch basins. D. Garlington states that he'll need to speak with Howie about them. Also mentions that he and D. Poliquin will go out to view the manholes that they are concerned about before he speaks with Howie at NH DOT. K. Russell mentions a map Howie has of the basins and suggests getting a copy to take out in the field to mark which basins they are concerned about.

K. Jones speaks about the last meeting where discussions were held regarding south Main Street. D. Poliquin mentions how it was discussed to either make it one-way southbound or close it down entirely. K. Russell explains his concern that truck drivers will call complaining that the Town has closed off access to a State road. Suggests speaking with Martin Calawa from Federal Highway Administration to look into whether or not there is a law preventing them from making the suggested changes.

D. Poliquin explains how the Town is trying to calm traffic in the Village District and considered the one-way be done on a trial basis. K. Russell stresses that the Town should speak with Mr. Calawa first before implementing any changes. Also suggests another person to speak with, Nancy Mayville, at NH DOT who might also be able to help. Explains how she's probably the person to speak with on all the issues brought to his attention today. K. Russell explains how even though NH DOT turned over that portion of the road to the Town the Federal Highway could still have certain regulations on the road.

K. Russell mentions the Town taking over the road and then there are no restrictions to the road, which he spoke with S. Fitzgerald about previously or do a trade so it doesn't affect the Town's finances. D. Garlington mentions that it was discussed years ago but was unsuccessful.

D. Poliquin speaks about the Safe Routes to School Grant and the Town's plan to change the Elm Street/Main Street intersection. Mentions that in the past, citizens have petitioned the Town to take over Main Street but once the costs were explained to the residents they decided against it.

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Chief McArdle questions who the contact is for opti-com maintenance. K. Russell indicates that it's Peter Crouch at NH DOT. Chief McArdle mentions how the State views the boxes on the side of the roads and then uses a private company, where his calls go unanswered. K. Russell also suggests speaking with Sally Gun or Toby Reynolds if he doesn't receive a response.

K. Jones confirms she will call N. Mayville regarding south Main Street and report back to the Committee. D. Poliquin would like to know what they say about making it one-way. Mentions that the Town will have to get the City of Haverhill onboard if it's posted "no commercial thru-truck traffic". Speaks about other roads the trucks can use to enter onto Route 121A. Would also like to find out who designed the new intersection at Route 125 and Haseltine Avenue and if it was built for truck traffic. D. Garlington believes the intersection was more so built for Stateline Plaza. K. Jones suggests D. Garlington to speak with NH DOT. D. Garlington suggests he first talk to M. Dorman once he returns.

K. Jones also suggests getting the truck team down on a monthly basis to focus on Main Street. D. Poliquin mentions that he's observed more truck traffic by a couple specific companies.

D. Garlington suggests updating GPS, which the trucks utilize, mentions that it can be done and how he use to get annual calls concerning any updates the Town had.

## **NEW BUSINESS - Discuss flashing school zone lights for TRHS and TRMS on Greenough Road.**

K. Jones mentions how there are no flashing school zone lights on Greenough Road for the TRHS and TRMS. D. Garlington suggests speaking with the Bureau of Traffic. K. Jones explains how they could potentially help with traffic in the school zone. Chief McArdle suggests speaking with P. Crouch. D. Poliquin inquires as to what happen to the Crossing Guards flashing signs. K. Jones explains that they need to be repaired; however, the company is no longer in business. Confirms she will reach out to P. Crouch regarding the signs.

L. Withee inquires about other sign options. D. Poliquin comments about a sign used at Exeter Hospital. D. Garlington mentions that he'll check with a company out of Hudson that he recently spoke with.

## **NEW BUSINESS – (Not on Agenda)**

L. Withee speaks about the new lawn signs and if the police can add directed patrols around their locations. K. Jones mentions that there are about 20 lawn signs still available and suggests placing them on Town property.

## **OLD BUSINESS – Update on JRM Hauling's meeting with Board of Selectmen on Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> concerning several complaints regarding trash pick-up and barrels in the roadways.**

The meeting with the Board of Selectmen was post-poned until November 24<sup>th</sup>.

## **OLD BUSINESS – Update on Safe Routes to School Grant, TAP Grant.**

M. Auger mentions a bicycle rack the Town was going to take at Pollard School that still needs to be picked up and explains the plan for it to be used at Town Hall. M. Auger would like to confirm that Pollard School's portion of the Safe Routes to School Grant is completed and who the contact person with the Town is for the grant now. K. Jones confirms she'll speak with S. Fitzgerald. M. Auger also would like to know if the school portion has any funds left and if so, would they be allowed to move them over to the Town's portion of the grant.

S. Fitzgerald speaks about the grant and how the Town is working with Hoyle, Tanner & Associates on the plans. Mentions conversations he's had with the Project Manager at NH DOT and how he'll be presenting the plans to NH DOT. Once NH DOT agrees on the plans, the Town can move forward. He mentions that they are currently approving costs so at this point school or public engagement is deferred.

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S. Fitzgerald updates the Committee on the TAP grant recently applied for and the benefits the Town would receive under this grant.

## **OTHER BUSINESS –**

K. Jones briefs S. Fitzgerald on the lawn signs, as he stepped out of the meeting during the discussion and mentions the lack of interest in the more negative signs purchased. S. Fitzgerald suggests posting them at key intersections such as the corner of Elm Street/Palmer Avenue. K. Jones suggests North Avenue/Main Street and Elm Street/Main Street as well.

R. Latham mentions how JRM Hauling workers are still running across the road in an attempt to collect all the trash at the same time.

R. Latham speaks about trucks on Elm Street while Court is in session and the difficulty they have getting by when the cars are parked along the sides of the road.

**ADJOURNMENT-** Motion to adjourn by Chief McArdle and seconded by D. Garlington. Meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m. None opposed – all in favor.

## **NEXT MEETING DATE – TBD**

Respectfully submitted,  
Sarah Gibbs, Recording Secretary