

# (APPROVED)



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

### PLAISTOW HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

**MEETING DATE** – Friday, May 13, 2016

**PRESENT** – Police Chief Kathleen Jones, *Chairman*; Fire Chief John McArdle, *Vice-Chairman*; Sean Fitzgerald, *Town Manager*; John Sherman, *Selectman Representative*; Richard Latham, *Citizen's Representative*; Greg Jones, *Town Planner*; Lisa Withee, *Citizen's Representative*; and Dan Garlington, *Highway Department Supervisor*

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

**ABSENT** – Ernie Sheltry, *Citizen's Representative* and Michelle Auger, *Pollard School Principal*

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

**MINUTES** – S. Fitzgerald motions to approve the minutes of 03/11/2016. Motion seconded by J. Sherman. No discussion. None opposed. L. Withee and D. Garlington abstained. Motion Passed.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**- None

#### **NEW BUSINESS** –

Chief Jones acknowledges Arthur Wiggins who is in attendance today as well as his interest in becoming a Committee member. Chief McArdle motions that Arthur Wiggin be recommended to an appointment on the Highway Safety Committee. Motion seconded by R. Latham. All in favor. None opposed. Motions passed. Chief Jones will send the Board of Selectmen a memo with this recommendation.

#### **ACTION ITEMS** –

1. Radar Reports – Distributed. Chief Jones mentions the busiest days in March for traffic on Main St. southbound was Saturday and northbound was Tuesdays and Thursdays. The busiest day for northbound in April was Saturdays. Reminds everyone that the radars track speeding at 31 mph and over. Briefly speaks about enforcement patrols on Main St.

Chief Jones also mentions the grant awarded by NH Highway Safety to the Town for 2 additional radar panels and the match required. S. Fitzgerald mentions his conversation with D. Garlington about funding from the Highway Department. Also mentions his interest in obtaining a message board through a grant and questions if the radar panels have any message boards on them. Chief Jones confirms they don't and how the grant was awarded to purchase radar panels only. J. Sherman would like to add the message board to the CIP.

2. Quarterly Traffic Statistics – Distributed.
3. Route 125 Project Presentation – S. Fitzgerald mentions that NH DOT did go before the Board of Selectmen regarding the project. D. Garlington suggests having them come back before they move the traffic pattern to the other side of the road. S. Fitzgerald will ask NH DOT back to the Board of Selectmen for an update.

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4. Placement of Radar Panels – Chief Jones will continue to place this on hold to discuss at a later meeting. However, she recommends placing them on roads such as Forrest St., Sweet Hill Rd, and Pollard Rd.
5. No-Thru Trucking – Chief Jones mentions the statistics she received from G. Jones from 06/2015 and mentions that the numbers are not high concerning truck usage. Comments that the busiest times for trucks appear to be between 9am – 11am and again from 3pm – 6pm. S. Fitzgerald questions if the no-thru trucking helped over the past 6 months and if any nearby roads have been affected. Chief Jones states that she has not seen any other roads affected. L. Withee mentions they are occasionally seen on Forrest St. since the trial period. R. Latham questions the GVW listed on the roads. D. Garlington states it's 12,000 but the difference is these roads for no-thru trucking were posted for commercial vehicles. S. Fitzgerald questions the number of violations over the past 6 months. Chief Jones explains the difficulty in enforcing no-thru trucking.

L. Withee motions to continue to restrict the vehicles on Pollard Rd., Forrest St., and Sweet Hill Rd for nothing over 12,000 GVW. Motion seconded by D. Garlington. All in favor. None opposed. Motion passed. Chief Jones will memo this recommendation to the Board of Selectmen.

6. Possible solutions for Main Street – Chief Jones suggests referring this action item to the Safe Routes to School Grant. J. Sherman questions if the Committee will be given a presentation from Hoyle, Tanner, & Associates. S. Fitzgerald mentions his interest in having the design team sit down with the Committee to get preferences before going to the Board of Selectmen. States how the concepts should be done by July to present to the Board of Selectmen. J. Sherman would like Hoyle, Tanner, & Associates to meet with the Committee.

R. Latham questions if any designs have been presented for the Elm Street intersection. G. Jones explains that they are only in the preliminary phase so it's still only conceptual. S. Fitzgerald again mentions the plan to present designs to the Board of Selectmen in July. J. Sherman mentions the recent meeting with Hoyle, Tanner, & Associates which was to give residents the opportunity to express what they'd like to see done. Mentions that some things mentioned were Highway Safety Committee related that the Committee should discuss with Hoyle, Tanner, & Associates.

S. Fitzgerald continues to discuss Main St. and the concerns he has about the crosswalks and suggest the Committee conduct a walk-thru by the village area. L. Withee mentions the issues she sees with the crosswalks on Main St. D. Garlington mentions the safety concerns with the crosswalk near Westville Rd. S. Fitzgerald explains that it's a busy location that a crosswalk will never work at. Also, speaks about the Traffic Calming Study which the Committee and Hoyle, Tanner, & Associates should review. J. Sherman explains that the Committee should be involved before Hoyle, Tanner, & Associates meet with the Board of Selectmen in July.

G. Jones will reach out to Hoyle, Tanner, & Associates to schedule a meeting over the next couple weeks and asks whether or not they should come in with concepts. Chief Jones indicates no, that they'd like to meet with them prior to creating any concepts.

7. Border Ave class counts – G. Jones explains that he's spoken with NH DOT and it's still pending. S. Fitzgerald asks if the Rockingham Planning Commission can place counters on Border Ave. to obtain data. D. Garlington mentions his concern about the accuracy of any counts currently with the construction on Rte 125. S. Fitzgerald suggests making Border Ave. one-way southbound and feels collecting the data now will be beneficial. Chief Jones suggests doing a comparison on the counts now and after the construction on Rte 125. S. Fitzgerald suggests making it one-way on a trial basis for 3-6 months. R. Latham explains that making it one-way southbound would

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cause problems since part of the road is in Massachusetts. Chief Jones recommends collecting the data first to review.

8. Westville Park-n-Ride – Table until the next meeting.
9. Opticom issues on Route 125 – Chief Jones will reach out to NH DOT regarding these concerns.
10. RSMS presentation correction – Completed.
11. List of 24' roadways – Table until the next meeting.
12. Jay Brake Ordinance – Chief Jones mentions her conversations with other NH Chiefs about having an ordinance. Mentions the safety concerns in restricting the use of jay brakes and how most Chiefs are against them due to this concern. S. Fitzgerald comments how it won't be enforceable and suggest speaking with the truck companies to address the noise concern. D. Garlington mentions the two different types of jay brakes, which are engine and exhaust. J. Sherman asks if the ordinance would be allowable. Chief Jones explains that most communities place "Quiet Road" signs at the beginning of each road. S. Fitzgerald believes this issue can be resolved with traffic calming. J. Sherman explains that with no one in favor of an ordinance the Committee should end discussions.
13. Traffic Counts on Rte 125 – previously discussed in action item #7.

**NEW BUSINESS** – Discuss list of roads that exceed standard 24' width.

J. Sherman requests that this item be placed on the next meeting's Agenda.

**NEW BUSINESS** – Fire Lane at Library.

Chief McArdle mentions the parking lot issues including lack of parking at the library at a recent political event, as well as no designated fire lane. Mentions how he was asked to find additional parking, if possible, and would like the Committee to be aware of this matter. Briefly mentions how some cars also park in the horseshoe entrance way at the library. S. Fitzgerald mentions his conversation with C. Vinton and explains that the library will need to coordinate a location before holding any events such as the political one that recently caused numerous parking issues. States that he'd like the Town to come up with a policy concerning large events.

Chief McArdle motions to recommend to the Board of Selectmen that a policy be developed for any large gatherings to go before the Board of Selectmen with the request for the event. S. Fitzgerald recommends them going before the Highway Safety Committee instead. Chief McArdle explains how there needs to be a Town Ordinance created by the Board of Selectmen. S. Fitzgerald believes police, fire, and highway should weigh in on any considerations before a large event. Motion seconded by D. Garlington.

J. Sherman explains that the Board would have someone draft an Ordinance for the Board's review and doesn't recommend doing any drafts at this time. Mentions the form the Town has for anyone requesting to use the Gazebo and believes a similar form should work. All in favor of the motion. None opposed. Motion passed. J. Sherman mentions that the Town will need a penalty included in the Ordinance for anyone who doesn't follow the process. Chief Jones will send a memo to the Board of Selectmen with this recommendation.

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## **NEW BUSINESS – Chandler Avenue**

Chief Jones mentions her conversation with Board of Selectman Bergeron who asked the Committee to consider making Chandler Ave one-way from Main St. to Rte 125. D. Garlington explains that maintenance on the roadway would be an issue. After brief discussion, the Committee does not recommend this.

## **NEW BUSINESS – Road maintenance.**

J. Sherman asks D. Garlington what the winter road maintenance issues are. D. Garlington explains that the Town plows Main Street south because NH DOT doesn't have any State roads in the area except for North Ave. Also states that the Town plows Kingston Rd as well since there are no State roads in that area. J. Sherman questions if NH DOT plows Sweet Hill Road. D. Garlington confirms they do and mentions how the Town receives compensation from the State for plowing these roads, which is based on the mileage of the streets. Comments how NH DOT plows still have to drive down Main Street to plow North Ave and believes next plowing season the Town will be plowing North Ave instead. S. Fitzgerald questions if NH DOT will help with the drainage issues before the Town takes it. D. Garlington explains that the State will continue to own and maintain the road and the Town will just plow it.

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

Previously discussed.

## **OLD BUSINESS – Review no thru trucking on Pollard Rd. and Forrest St.**

Previously discussed.

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

Chief Jones asks if the Town is still pursuing dropping the speed limit on Town roads. S. Fitzgerald would like to place this item on the next Agenda to discuss.

## **OLD BUSINESS – Discuss whether or not to close the Border Ave slip lane.**

Previously discussed.

## **OTHER BUSINESS – NH DOT letter dated 3/24/2016.**

G. Jones explains that he's reached out to NH DOT but has not heard back so he'll reach out again. Chief Jones briefly explains that the Town received a letter concerning the placement of the radar signs on Main Street.

**ADJOURNMENT-** Motion to adjourn by S. Fitzgerald, seconded by G. Jones. None opposed – all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

## **NEXT MEETING DATE – TBD**

Respectfully submitted,  
Sarah Gibbs, Recording Secretary