

(APPROVED)



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

PLAISTOW HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

MEETING DATE – Friday, January 23, 2015

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

EXCUSED – None

ABSENT – Town Planner and Ernie Sheltry, *Citizen's Representative*

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER - 1:07 p.m.

MINUTES – S. Fitzgerald motions to approve the minutes of 11/21/2014, seconded by M. Dorman. No discussion. None opposed. All in favor except M. Dorman, who abstained.

PUBLIC COMMENT- None

NEW BUSINESS – Electronically distribute monthly Main Street radar panel reports for November and December 2014.

K. Jones briefly explains that the statistics sent to the Committee are for northbound only due to a reset that occurred on the southbound radar unit. Explains how when the unit was reset, it defaulted back to collecting data at 20 mph instead of 30 mph causing November and December statistics to be construed.

S. Fitzgerald mentions putting the radar signs in different locations. D. Poliquin indicates that the Board of Selectmen would like additional information on radar units. K. Jones explains that she'd like to know what they are interested in for radar units such as solar and portability so she can get pricing on what they are looking for. S. Fitzgerald questions where the best places are to put the radar units to gain more data and control traffic. He would like the police department to provide input on possible locations.

K. Jones comments that she believes the radar units on Main Street are working to calm traffic. D. Poliquin explains that he does notice drivers slowing down at the signs but most of them speed up afterwards and suggests moving the signs closer to the Village District and also looking into solar radar units. K. Jones mentions that solar will cost about \$2,000 more than a regular unit but will be more cost effective in the long term.

D. Poliquin mentions comments he's heard from residents on the other side of Route 125 who are having similar speeding issues. S. Fitzgerald would like this placed on the next Agenda to further discuss moving the signs and priority areas they should be located in. He would also like everyone to keep in mind how too many signs could cause sign pollution. K. Jones requests that the Committee members think about locations prior to the next meeting.

R. Latham suggests going with solar panels in order to place them in more locations and avoid limitations.

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D. Poliquin mentions that the utility pole by Forrest Street was suggested as a location for a radar unit however, there is a tree that would block the view. D. Garlington reminds the Committee to think about the residents and how some might not want a radar unit in front of their home. He also mentions that the more portable the unit the more chances of it being stolen. K. Jones also reminds everyone about the manpower involved with each radar panel from moving them to collecting data, which are both very time consuming.

K. Jones briefly mentions that the NH Highway Safety Agency offers a 50/50 grant for radar units and that she'll look into it further.

NEW BUSINESS – Highway Safety Agency Grants for 10/1/15 – 9/30/16.

K. Jones mentions the grants that the department receives annually at 100% reimbursement for Enforcement, Speed, and DUI/DWI Patrols and how she will be applying for Grants for the 10/1/15-9/30/16 as well a radar unit grant. S. Fitzgerald indicates that he will speak with the Board of Selectmen regarding a 50/50 grant for a radar unit.

M. Dorman motions to allow K. Jones to apply for the Highway Safety Grants for 10/1/15 -9/30/16 grant period. Motion was seconded by J. McArdle. No further discussion. None opposed – All in Favor – Motion passes.

OLD BUSINESS – Update on JRM Hauling's meeting with Board of Selectmen concerning several complaints regarding trash pick-up and barrels in the roadways.

S. Fitzgerald briefly mentions the meeting with JRM and the Board of Selectmen over concerns of trash pick-up and barrels. Comments that the residents need to consider that when the wind is over 10 mph it will cause empty barrels to blow over and go into the roads. D. Poliquin mentions that he has observed a change in the crew with JRM recently.

L. Withee explains her disappointment and frustration with JRM since the meeting as they are still picking up trash on both sides of the road at the same time, and continue to back down roads. R. Latham mentions that they have been doing better on Sweethill Road. S. Fitzgerald mentions that he will call JRM concerning these issues and encourages everyone to inform him of any complaints or concerns they have with JRM. He asks D. Garlington to put a list of any issues/concerns with JRM together so he can address JRM directly.

OLD BUSINESS – Update on Safe Routes to School Grant.

S. Fitzgerald provides the Committee with an update and informs everyone that they are beginning to put road scaping concepts together with Hoyle, Tanner & Associates and explains that the Town will be looking to slim down the road. Mentions that the final design will be chosen by the Board of Selectmen and how public hearings will be held within in the next few months.

S. Fitzgerald excused himself at 1:32 pm.

OTHER BUSINESS –

M. Dorman mentions how he's spoken with S. Fitzgerald regarding Unitil installing 3 lights on Wilder Drive and mentions that the Board of Selectmen need to send a letter to Unitil requesting the lights be installed.

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K. Jones mentions that after reviewing the history of the Committee she noticed the meetings were only held 6 times per year and asks how the Committee feels about going back to this and having a meeting every other month. D. Poliquin briefly mentions that they've been meeting monthly due to issues such as the Safe Routes to School grant. L. Withee motions to have the meetings every other month unless it's necessary to hold an additional meeting. M. Dorman seconds the motion. No further discussion. None opposed – All in Favor – Motion passes.

OLD BUSINESS – Update regarding south Main Street and any discussions between K. Jones and N. Mayville from NH DOT regarding options for it.

OLD BUSINESS – Update on flashing school zone lights for TRMS and TRHS on Greenough Road.

K. Jones explains her numerous attempts to contact N. Mayville as well as other individuals K. Russell of NH DOT recommended the Committee speak with and has not received any responses. Recently spoke with K. Russell about this and he provided another contact, Bill Watson, to call who is on vacation until Monday. She will give the Committee an update on these matters at the next meeting after she's had an opportunity to speak with NH DOT.

D. Garlington mentions that the Town will need to figure out the school zone on Greenough Road.

OTHER BUSINESS –

K. Jones briefly mentions the website, www.GPS.gov, where individuals can go to and update route directions if anyone would like to check it out.

D. Garlington asks about "No-Thru Trucking". D. Poliquin explains that it has not been on the Board of Selectmen's Agenda yet for several reasons. D. Garlington quickly mentions how it will take time to put any change into effect and asks if the Board of Selectmen will keep this in mind and allow time to implement any changes that might be made.

R. Latham questions where the trucks will go. D. Poliquin explains that the current postings were only trials to see how traffic patterns would be affected and explains the numerous logistics involved.

ADJOURNMENT- Motion to adjourn by D. Garlington and seconded by R. Latham. Meeting adjourned at 1:43 pm. None opposed – all in favor.

NEXT MEETING DATE – TBD

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Gibbs,
Recording Secretary