



# APPROVED

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

## PLAISTOW HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

**MEETING DATE** – Friday, March 1, 2013

**PRESENT** - Chief Stephen Savage, Chairman; Chief John McArdle, Vice-Chairman (*arrived at 9:45 am*); Michael Dorman, Building Inspector; Dan Garlington, Highway Department Supervisor; Sean Fitzgerald, Town Manager; Dan Poliquin, Selectman Representative; Lisa Withee, Citizen's Representative; Leigh Komornick, Town Planner (*arrived at 9:45 am*) and Ernie Sheltry, Citizen's Representative

**EXCUSED** – None

**ABSENT** - Richard Latham, Citizen's Representative

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

**MINUTES** - M. Dorman motions to accept the minutes of the 1/11/13 and 1/16/13, meetings. Seconded by D. Garlington - No discussion – None opposed – All in favor.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**- None

**NEW BUSINESS** – None

**OLD BUSINESS** – NH Highway Safety Agency Radar and Display Board Grant – Chief Savage to provide Committee proposals/quotes for radar and display board.

Chief Savage discusses the grant for radar units and the research done on options available. Informs everyone that he's chosen to go with Stalker Radar's Center 360 Trailer, which cost \$17,581.00 and explains that he's received a grant from the NH Highway Safety Agency for \$6,000.00, has an additional \$3,000.00 pledged from the Plaistow Police Association. This leaves a balance of \$8,581.00 that the Town will need fund or find funding for.

S. Fitzgerald comments about his discussion a month ago about the possibility of the Beede group assisting in funding the radar unit. Chief Savage comments that he's briefly spoken with Mike Skinner providing him with a ballpark number of what the Town is seeking. He states that he doesn't have any firm commitments from Beede and if acceptable, he would like to speak with them again.

S. Fitzgerald explains that approval is required by the Board of Selectmen before proceeding since the donation the Town is seeking is over \$5,000.00.

Chief Savage believes they can find the funds and believes Taurus would donate funds. S. Fitzgerald will discuss this matter with the Board of Selectmen before anyone proceeding any further. Feels the Town can raise the additional funds needed through business partnerships and explains all the benefits the message board would provide the Town. Chief Savage explains all the options the message board has.

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D. Garlington questions if anyone considered going through the Town budget to find funding and suggests the Town purchase 2 units. Chief Savage explains the need for a second bigger message board and how the Town should look into one at a later time.

L. Withee questions what the unit's message board will be used for. Chief Savage explains how it will be used for both messaging and radar. L. Withee suggests contacting a local newspaper to do an article on this as a communication piece.

D. Poliquin likes the unit, the options chosen, and indicates that he will support it. S. Fitzgerald requests D. Poliquin speak to his fellow Board of Selectmen members regarding this.

L. Komornick questions if the Safe Routes to School would be a funding option. Chief Savage explains how the Town is not able to match federal funds due to a supplementation clause. S. Fitzgerald would like to look at the Safe Routes to School as an option for a second radar unit.

L. Withee questions if Safe Routes to School funds the second unit if it will only be allowed to be used at the schools. Chief Savage mentions that it can be used throughout Town.

S. Fitzgerald states that he'll ask the Board of Selectmen if they can have 45 days to get matching funds. States that he would like Chief Savage to speak with Mike Skinner from the Beede Group.

Chief Savage comments that the grant for \$6,000.00 expires in June.

## **OLD BUSINESS – Further discussion on lights for the new service road and the possibility of installing LED lights on the service road.**

Chief McArdle explains that he's spoken with Unitil and S. Fitzgerald has spoken with Siemens regarding LED lights. Comments about the costs and risks associated with them and how Unitil doesn't use LED lights due to tariff issues.

S. Fitzgerald comments about the increased costs in utilities and how it's worth the Town looking into other options and to look at other projects throughout the region to use as models. Anticipates meeting with Unitil in the next few weeks to discuss their community projects to possibly help support renewable energy in Plaistow. Further explains the complexity and how this project is a work in progress.

Chief Savage questions if there are any impediments of installing LED lights on the new service road. Chief McArdle explains that Unitil can't install LED lights without a tariff and how the Town can only install them on Town property.

L. Withee questions if the Town would consider a loan through Siemens. S. Fitzgerald explains that he would like to avoid any loans.

S. Fitzgerald states how he's not prepared to make any recommendations at this time and would like to have Unitil as a partner on this project.

Chief Savage comments that L. Komornick was going to invite NH DOT to this meeting and that NH DOT is not in attendance. Asks the Committee if they would like to continue this discussion?

S. Fitzgerald states that he's spoken with NH DOT who indicated they would install the lights but the Town would be responsible for the costs.

L. Komornick offers to invite them to the next meeting to talk about the lights.

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Chief McArdle questions who will own the lights. L. Komornick indicates that the Town will own them since they will be on a Town road. D. Poliquin mentions that the Town doesn't own the lights that are currently on other Town roads.

Chief McArdle explains that the Town would need the ability to fix the lights if they are owned by the Town by either purchasing equipment to do so or contracting with an outside vendor for maintenance and repairs.

S. Fitzgerald mentions his conversation with Mr. Noonis about how the costs for LED lights have gone through the floor and the life cycle value on them has gone through the ceiling and feels that LED lights on the service road would be a good trial run.

Chief Savage states that he won't place this issue on the Agenda as it is now an issue between the Town Manager and Board of Selectmen. D. Poliquin suggests putting it on the Agenda in a few months when there is more information.

## COMMENTS –

➤ D. Poliquin questions if the radar units currently on Main Street collect data and if so, is it being downloaded and accumulated.

Chief Savage explains that they do and the Town Manager needs to decide on what he wants included in the report. S. Fitzgerald would like the report to show the various speeds of travel throughout the day and also would like to look at how the Town is managing policing based on the results.

L. Withee questions why the southbound radar unit isn't closer to the old recreation field. Chief Savage explains the need for a power source for the unit. S. Fitzgerald explains how the current location southbound is a dangerous corner and believes there is a benefit of having the radar unit there.

D. Poliquin would like to see the data collected so far from the two radar units.

S. Fitzgerald comments about driving on Main Street and how enforcement is an important piece to calm traffic.

E. Sheltry questions the cost of a speeding ticket. Chief Savage explains that it depends on how much somebody is traveling over the speed limit. Further, mentions that some fines can cause a driver to be issued a "must appear" for a court hearing and possible suspension of their driver's license.

Chief Savage comments about the increase he's seen of truck traffic on Main Street and that he's contacting the NH State Police Truck Team to come down again for enforcement patrols. Mentions that he could send a letter out again to the local trucking businesses to keep in contact.

➤ D. Poliquin questions if there is an update on the Haseltine swap.

S. Fitzgerald comments that it was approved. D. Poliquin would like to begin discussing what the Town would like to do with the swap. S. Fitzgerald agrees. M. Dorman indicates that the Town will need support from the City of Haverhill.

L. Komornick mentions that when Walgreens opens, it will be a 3-way stop at Haseltine Avenue, which the NH DOT mandated with the site plan. D. Poliquin questions why the 3-way stop sign didn't go before the Board of Selectmen.

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Chief Savage questions how it will impact traffic coming northbound.

L. Komornick mentions that NH DOT specifically indicated that any attempt to make it a 1-way southbound only, a correction will have to be made at Route 125 and Haseltine Avenue so trucks can make a right hand turn onto Haseltine Avenue.

Chief Savage suggests holding a joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen, City of Haverhill, Merrimack Valley Planning, Rockingham Planning Commission, and NH DOT to discuss this matter at a Board of Selectmen meeting.

S. Fitzgerald suggests a presentation be given to the Board of Selectmen of what's occurring with the new Walgreens. D. Poliquin indicates that Walgreens is a done deal and nothing further can be done.

L. Komornick mentions that the last traffic data collected for truck traffic on Main Street showed more truck traffic coming from North Avenue and not Route 125. D. Poliquin questions the type of trucks she is referring to as he doesn't see and 18-wheelers on North Avenue.

*S. Fitzgerald excused himself at 10:25 a.m.*

Chief Savage believes the Route 125/Haseltine Avenue intersection needs to be corrected before making any changes at the intersection of North Avenue.

D. Garlington believes NH DOT should re-evaluate their templates as he doesn't feel they are working through his observations of driver's trying to utilize the island cut-thrus.

L. Komornick doesn't believe the City of Haverhill will support any changes at the Main Street/Route 125 intersection until the old Pizza Hut property is developed. Indicates how NH DOT won't allow the Town to shut down traffic northbound from Route 125 to Main Street. Suggests having an initial meeting with NH DOT to discuss any restrictions they may have.

D. Poliquin reiterates his concern to L. Komornick as to why the 3-way stop sign didn't go before the Board of Selectmen.

Chief Savage suggests the Board of Selectmen set the Agenda for a meeting with NH DOT for Committee members to attend. Chief McArdle suggests having maps available for all the attendees to reference. D. Poliquin will bring this matter to the Board of Selectmen and report back to the Committee.

➤ D. Poliquin requests any updates on conversations with the NH DOT on permanently closing the slip lane at Elm Street.

L. Komornick indicates that she has provided NH DOT an analysis showing how the barrels are working and explains how the next step is to create a concept, which she has requested funded for in the Safe Routes to School Grant.

L. Komornick briefly mentions that the Safe Routes to School Grant application did include a conceptual study of the Elm Street/Main Street slip lane.

D. Poliquin states how he doesn't want to wait too long on the slip lane matter.

D. Garlington suggests ripping up the hot top and berm it up.

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D. Poliquin mentions how the Town will need to speak with NH DOT to insure any changes meet NH DOT's criterias.

Chief Savage questions if a formal count has been completed at the Elm Street/Main Street intersection. L. Komornick confirms it was included in the traffic calming study, which was before the barrels were put in place. Chief Savage suggests NH DOT commit to an actual person obtaining the data counts and would like L. Komornick to ask NH DOT if they could do this for Elm Street/Main Street intersection as well as the Westville Road/Main Street intersection.

➤ D. Poliquin questions the amount of cars traveling on Main Street daily. L. Komornick believes the count was approximately 6,500.

Chief Savage will provide counts and data from the radar units on Main Street. L. Komornick would like this data prior to her Safe Routes to School Grant presentation in April. Chief Savage confirms he or Lt. Baldwin will attend the presentation in Concord in April and will get this data to her prior to then.

**ADJOURNMENT-** Motion to adjourn by D. Garlington and seconded by D. Poliquin. None opposed. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

**NEXT MEETING DATE – TBD**

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah E. Gibbs,  
Recording Secretary