

(APPROVED)



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

PLAISTOW HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

MEETING DATE – Friday, March 11, 2016

PRESENT – Police Chief Kathleen Jones, *Chairman*; Fire Chief John McArdle, *Vice-Chairman*; Michael Dorman, *Building Inspector*; Sean Fitzgerald, *Town Manager*; John Sherman, *Selectman Representative*; Richard Latham, *Citizen's Representative*; Greg Jones, *Town Planner*; and Michelle Auger, *Pollard School Principal*

EXCUSED – Ernie Sheltry, *Citizen's Representative*; Lisa Withee, *Citizen's Representative*; and Dan Garlington, *Highway Department Supervisor*

ABSENT – None

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

MINUTES – S. Fitzgerald motions to approve the minutes of 01/15/2016, seconded by G. Jones. No discussion. None opposed. M. Auger abstained. Motion Passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT- None

NEW BUSINESS – Westville Road Bridge Replacement Project Presentation.

G. Jones speaks about the abutters meeting that was held on January 25, 2016 and introduces Aaron Lachance, P.E., Project Manager and Matthew Low, P.E., Director of Engineering Operations from Hoyle, Tanner & Associates who are giving the presentation on the Westville Road Bridge Project.

Matthew begins discussing the background of the project, NH DOT funding, its progress, the next steps and schedule. States that the bridge is considered to be in fair condition, was built in 1940, and rehabilitated in 1960. J. Sherman requests that a slide be added to the presentation showing the list of bridge conditions categorized.

Matthew explains that the bridge is on a Town road so NH DOT is only a contributing partner in the project. He mentions that the project is planned for 2018 and confirms that the bridge is not red listed. Chief Jones questions the average life span of the bridge. Matthew explains how it could last another ten years since it's made of concrete.

Matthew mentions the next step, which is preliminary design paid by the Town who is later reimbursed 80% of the costs.

Aaron continues the presentation discussing the engineering study tasks. R. Latham questions what the plans are presented to the Committee. Aaron indicates that they're preliminary and mentions that they'll need to work with DES in order to get permits for the wetlands.

Chief McArdle mentions water lines and if a sleeve or other accommodation be installed on the new bridge to bring water across. Matthew confirms they can, however it needs to be factored in the plans now. S. Fitzgerald states that he'll schedule a meeting with Hoyle, Tanner & Associate and Underwood Engineers to discuss this further.

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Chief Jones questions if the abutters had any concerns on the project. Matthew mentions the positive feedback about sidewalks. S. Fitzgerald mentions some concerns about encroachment on an abutter's property.

J. Sherman indicates that he'd like a water line added to the plans. Matthew informs the Committee that since this is not on the current bridge, it will be considered an add-on and the Town will be responsible for the costs. Chief McArdle mentions different options for a water line, such as placing a sleeve through the bridge. Aaron also mentions possibly being able to bury the water line.

Aaron continues the presentation discussing traffic management options during the project's construction and whether or not they want to keep the road open or close it during construction. Believes a closure lasting 4-6 weeks would be a reasonable timeframe for the project.

J. Sherman asks about the type of sidewalk that will be used, and it's confirmed that it will be curbed. Aaron explains that the sidewalk will be paid by NH DOT but only on the bridge to the first abutter or road, whichever comes first on each side of the bridge. He states that any further sidewalks on the road will be the Town's financial responsibility.

R. Latham questions the small dam near the bridge and Aaron confirms that it will not be touched.

S. Fitzgerald comments about the sidewalks calming traffic and would like a crosswalk considered by Whiton Place.

J. Sherman speaks about having a slide in the presentation that highlights the issues concerning the bridge.

Matthew continues to further speaks about the schedule and the plan to have it out for bid by January 2018. J. Sherman suggests adding to the presentation when the funding will be needed. Matthew mentions that they will want to put it out to bid in January 2018 so the project can start at the end of June and be completed during the summer when school is out on break.

J. Sherman suggests adding a slide about the duration of closing the road and the costs involved to minimize the amount of time it's closed. He explains the Town might not want to spend extra money in order to have the road closed for a minimal amount of time. Would like to see the costs if the road was closed for 8 weeks versus 3 months.

Chief McArdle questions how they quantify that the road is a heavily traveled pedestrian area. G. Jones explains that you can only quantify if you count the number of pedestrians. J. Sherman suggests referencing the Town's Master Plan regarding sidewalks. S. Fitzgerald would like to get the number of residents that live on streets abutting Westville Road and also have the radar trailer placed on Westville Road to capture data on speed.

J. Sherman mentions that the Town is creating a sidewalk at a place where one doesn't exist. Matthew explains that the bridge needs to be wider than it currently is in order to put in a sidewalk. S. Fitzgerald asks for the scope of work entailed to put in a sidewalk from the bridge to Main Street and what it would cost.

S. Fitzgerald suggests giving the Board of Selectmen an update on the costs. J. Sherman would like to have this presented before the Board of Selectmen before it goes to a public hearing.

Presentation ended at 11:00 a.m.

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OLD BUSINESS – Update on Safe Routes to School Grant.

S. Fitzgerald quickly mentions the Notice of Proceed the Town received so the Committee should be seeing preliminary designs shortly.

ADJOURNMENT- Motion to adjourn by M. Dorman, seconded by M. Auger. None opposed – all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

NEXT MEETING DATE – TBD

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Gibbs, Recording Secretary