

# (APPROVED)



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

### PLAISTOW HIGHWAY SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

**MEETING DATE** – Friday, March 16, 2018

**PRESENT** – Police Chief Kathleen Jones, *Chairman*; Fire Chief John McArdle, *Vice-Chairman*; Dan Garlington, *Highway Department Supervisor*; Michael Dorman, *Building Inspector*; Dee Voss, *Planning Coordinator*; John Sherman, *Selectmen Representative*; Michelle Auger, *Pollard School Principal*; Lisa Withee, *Citizen's Representative*; Richard Latham, *Citizen's Representative*; Arthur Wiggin, *Citizen's Representative*; and Sam Cafiso, *Alternate Citizen's Representative*

**EXCUSED** – None

**ABSENT** – None

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER** - 9:32 a.m.

**MINUTES** – Chief McArdle motions to approve the minutes of 12/15/2017. Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by L. Withee. No discussion. None opposed. All in favor except for R. Latham, M. Dorman, D. Voss, and M. Auger who all abstained. Motion passed.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**- None

**NEW BUSINESS** – Discuss making the portion of Jesse George Rd (behind Cumberland Farms) one-way traveling from Rte 125 to Danville Rd.

M. Dorman distributed an aerial map of the area and mentions issues with drivers taking a left onto Rte 125 and traveling on the wrong side of the median northbound. D. Garlington explains that the location is a designated turn-around for traffic to travel south on Rte 125. Chief Jones states that the Town would need to speak with NH DOT before removing any of their signs. Chief McArdle explains that they would need to find another means to reverse direction and mentions signs that are posted directing you to use Jesse George to reverse direction. S. Cafiso suggests eliminating the left hand fork of the road on Jesse George Rd. D. Garlington explains that the fork is to handle trucks entering onto Jesse George. D. Voss suggests placing a sign for no left hand turns. Chief Jones indicates that a sign is already posted and will make the patrol officers aware of this issue.

**NEW BUSINESS** – Presentation from William Lambert of NHDOT regarding speed limits.

Chief Jones introduces NH DOT State Traffic Engineer W. Lambert to the Committee. W. Lambert briefly explains his history with NH DOT and the history on how speed limits have been set over the years. Chief Jones briefly explains what the Town is looking to do at a local level. W. Lambert begins his PowerPoint presentation regarding speed limits.

W. Lambert explains NH RSA 265:63 regarding local roads and how speed limits are determined, setting credible speed limits, and speed limit relationships with other traffic control devices. W. Lambert discussed other relevant NH RSA's;

- NH RSA 236:1 regarding regulation;
- NH RSA 236:7 establishment of speed zones; and
- NH RSA 265:60 basic rule and maximum limits; (This RSA defines limits including school zones, business districts, urban and rural residences and Class V roads.)

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J. Sherman questions if there is a map available that defines these districts. W. Lambert indicates that no maps are available and mentions that by NH RSA Town roads are 35 mph. J. Sherman questions if there is a law requiring that the speed limit be posted. W. Lambert believes the law is referenced in NH RSA 236:7.

W. Lambert also mentions positing a sign when entering the Town indicating what the uniform speed limit is in Town unless otherwise posted. D. Garlington explains that goal is to post all Town roads the same. Chief Jones questions if the uniform speed limit would be enforceable. W. Lambert indicates it is explaining that the Board of Selectmen would have to adopt the speed limit and also have an engineering and traffic investigation completed to determine the basis for the speed limit. W. Lambert further discusses NH RSA 41:11- Regulation of Use of Highways, Etc. and NH RSA 47:17- Bylaws and Ordinances.

W. Lambert continues the presentation discussing;

- NH RSA 265:62 – Establishment of State Speed Zones, which requires engineering and traffic investigation.
- MUTCD (Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices), which is the national standard for all traffic control devices.

J. Sherman questions the typical cost to complete a study. W. Lambert provides an estimated range of \$5,000 - \$10,000 based upon the length of segment.

W. Lambert speaks about determining speed limits and that most 25 mph speed limits are in compact parts of cities and towns. Further explains that this limit may be considered upon petition of local governing body.

W. Lambert continues speaking about US DOT, Federal Highway Administration USLIMITS2, which is a tool to aid practitioners in determining appropriate speed limit recommendations. Briefly provides examples of NH Towns including Tilton, Dover, and Wakefield that were looking to reduce speed limits and/or set credible speed limits.

R. Latham questions if the Town would have to comply under USLIMITS2 if it wanted to set a Town speed limit. W. Lambert indicates that it's a good standard to follow however, engineering and traffic investigations are not defined in NH RSA and not required but the Town would still need to do a speed study. Chief Jones questions what would be considered a good speed study for the Town. W. Lambert indicates a speed study completed with a qualified engineer along with an individual experienced and qualified with the Town roadways.

D. Garlington questions if the Town can break the roads down into categories such as dead-ends and cul-d-sacs to do studies based on category. W. Lambert indicates if that is what the Town decided to it would be considered a reasonable approach. D. Garlington further speaks about ride ability and using it as a criteria in helping to determine speed limits.

W. Lambert briefly speaks about the challenge of designing roads for target speeds. Also mentions if the Town was to do a complete street traffic calming study they could speak with Brian Scott and NH DOT District VI.

Chief Jones questions the Town Ordinances in effect setting speed limits and whether or not they are grandfathered. W. Lambert explains that NH DOT is only looking going forward.

D. Garlington questions when the Board of Selectmen accept roads, if the speed limit can be determined at the public hearing or if a study is needed. W. Lambert indicates that the study would be needed on through roads. D. Garlington briefly speaks about subdivisions and through roads and the process of

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when a Town road is accepted, it is understood it will be set at 25 mph. W. Lambert comments how if the road is set up/designed to travel 40 mph people will go that versus if it's set to travel slower.

S. Cafiso speaks about changing the speed limit posted on the roads but how the character of the roads don't change. D. Garlington explains that the Town is looking to be consistent. S. Cafiso suggests looking at designing the roads moving forward for the speed you want. General discussion held regarding speed limits and concerns of speeding on Town roads with W. Lambert prior to him leaving the meeting.

Chief Jones asks the committee for thoughts regarding the presentation. D. Garlington suggests the Town leave the roads as they are and look at the criteria's and categorize the roads first. Chief Jones explains how the Committee has more information now and suggests dealing with roads individually if there is a concern instead of all Town roads.

S. Cafiso questions the RSMS to repair road versus have it re-built. D. Garlington mentions conditions that need to be considered such as drainage issues and width of road currently. Chief Jones suggests this matter be tabled or start looking at roads individually indicating how spring will be a better time to review roads and look at the ones that get the most complaints.

**NEW BUSINESS-** Chief Jones suggests the Committee begin having the meetings at the Safety Complex in the Training Hall. Committee agrees moving the meetings to the Safety Complex.

**NEW BUSINESS** – S. Cafiso speaks about discontinuing Ruth's Way questioning a purpose for it and explains that the one house on it has a Kingston Road address. D. Garlington provides brief history of Ruth's Way. J. Sherman suggests waiting for RSMS to make a change to the road. Chief Jones asks D. Garlington to flag it in the RSMS. D. Garlington confirms he will.

## **OLD BUSINESS** – Review re-drafted Highway Safety Committee Charter

Chief Jones would like the Committee to review the re-drafted Charter, which she will distribute to everyone by email. Also, states that if the members are in agreement with the draft, she will bring it before the Board of Selectmen for approval.

## **OLD BUSINESS** – Review of procedure for issues brought before the Committee.

Chief Jones mentions that she posted a procedure on the Town's website for people who want to address an issue before the Committee and suggest everyone review it.

## **OLD BUSINESS** – Discuss resident's request for street light at Village Way/Main St. intersection.

S. Cafiso mentions different style of street lights that can be installed, high pressure sodium or mercury vapor lights, which changes the brightness depending on which style is installed. Chief Jones questions how to determine the type of light actually installed at Village Way. D. Garlington suggests that any request to change the light should go to Unitil from the Board of Selectmen. Chief Jones states that she will contact T. Noonis at Unitil to find out the process and follow up with the Committee. L. Withee suggests possibly moving or adding additional lights. D. Voss briefly speaks about Unitil's LED tariffs. S. Cafiso mentions hoods that can be installed on the lights.

## **OLD BUSINESS** – Discuss track pick-up concerns on Sweethill Road.

R. Latham mentions that the issue resolved itself and speaks about the trash collectors crossing the road to pick up from both sides. L. Withee mentions that she witnessed the trash collectors doing this today. Chief Jones mentions that D. Garlington put a list of roads together the Town recommends that they don't this on and suggests sending a letter to the trash company with the list of roads. **Chief McArdle motions that the Board of Selectmen send a letter to JRM with the list of roads to avoid zigzagging on. No discussion. All in favor but J. Sherman who abstained. Motion passed.**

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## **OLD BUSINESS – Truck traffic counts on Smith Corner Road.**

Chief Jones explains that neither NH DOT or Rockingham Planning Commission collect data on vehicle weights. States that Rockingham Planning Commission's suggestion would be to have NH State Police Motor Carrier Enforcement spend time in the area of concern. Chief Jones will reach out to them to see if they can come out and monitor the area. Chief Jones also mentions that she has not heard further from L. Millette but will follow up with her. D. Garlington briefly mentions his conversation with the Town of Newton and that they have not received any complaints regarding the road.

## **OLD BUSINESS – Discuss meeting with G. Kalil.**

Chief Jones mentions that herself, Chief McArdle, D. Garlington, and A. Wiggin all met with G. Kalil regarding his concerns on Walton Road. Explains the meeting went well, suggestions were offered to G. Kalil, and since the meeting she has not heard from him with any further issues or concerns.

## **OLD BUSINESS – Safe Routes to School.**

D. Voss states that they are still waiting for final design approval and hoping to meet the April 2<sup>nd</sup> deadline to put it to bid. J. Sherman comments that if it's on schedule, they will be able to do this project during the summer. J. Sherman suggests that the Town think of an alternative if the deadline is missed.

## **OTHER BUSINESS – Westville Road Bridge.**

D. Voss mentions that this project is in the negotiating stages with the abutters.

## **OTHER BUSINESS –**

M. Pearson briefly mentions the water project and construction that will occur in the areas of Sweethill Road, East Road, and possibly Westville Road from the bridge to Rte 125. M. Auger mentions making sure that there is communication with the school so they can inform the buses. D. Garlington suggests making sure they are involved in all the construction projects. General discussion held regarding the projects.

## **ACTION ITEMS – #1. Quarterly traffic statistics from radar panels.**

Chief Jones distributed reports providing traffic statistics for 2016 and 2017.

## **ACTION ITEMS – #2 Pollard Rd/Congressional Ave drainage issue.**

D. Voss mentions that Normandeau Associates is working on the engineering.

## **ACTION ITEMS - #3. Draft list of roads that should not have trash picked up on the opposite side of the road from the direction the trash trucks are traveling.**

Chief Jones confirms that this is closed as she will be providing the list to the Board of Selectmen.

## **ACTION ITEMS - #4. Schedule public hearing with Board of Selectmen regarding speed limits on classified roads.**

Chief Jones indicates this was discussed earlier in the meeting with W. Lambert.

**ADJOURNMENT-** D. Garlington motions to adjourn meeting. Motion seconded by D. Voss. All in favor. None Opposed. Motion passes, meeting adjourned at 11:25 am.

## **NEXT MEETING DATES –**

**June 15, 2018**

**September 14, 2018**

**December 14, 2018**

Respectfully submitted,  
Sarah Gibbs,  
Recording Secretary