

(APPROVED)



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

**PLAISTOW HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**MEETING DATE** – Friday, September 16, 2016

**PRESENT** – Police Chief Kathleen Jones, *Chairman*; Fire Chief John McArdle, *Vice-Chairman*; John Sherman, *Selectman Representative*; Michael Dorman, *Building Inspector*; Dan Garlington, *Highway Department Supervisor*; Ernie Sheltry, *Citizen's Representative*; Arthur Wiggin, *Citizen's Representative*; Lisa Withee, *Citizen's Representative*; and Richard Latham, *Citizen's Representative*

**EXCUSED** –Michelle Auger, *Pollard School Principal*

**ABSENT** –Sean Fitzgerald, *Town Manager* and Greg Jones, *Town Planner*

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER** - 9:31 a.m.

**MINUTES** – J. Sherman motions to approve the minutes of 07/14/2016. Motion seconded by M. Dorman. No discussion. None opposed. R. Latham, E. Sheltry, and L. Withee abstained. Motion Passed.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**- None

**NEW BUSINESS** – Discuss replacing the yield sign on Old Road at Jesse George to a stop sign.

Chief McArdle speaks about the current yield sign at Jesse George Road and Old Road and possibly transferring the yield sign over to Jesse George Road as a stop sign. D. Garlington comments that the through street is Jesse George Road. M. Dorman motions to make a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen to move the yield sign over to Jesse George Road. D. Garlington recommends changing it to make the yield sign a stop sign instead. M. Dorman revises his motion with this modification. No further discussion. All in favor. None opposed. Selectmen Representative J. Sherman neither abstains nor votes and will vote at the Board of Selectmen meeting. Chief Jones will send the recommendation to the Board of Selectmen.

Chief Jones inquires to D. Garlington about the status of the speed limits on Class V roads and whether this matter has gone before the Board of Selectmen. J. Sherman inquires about the speed limits. D. Garlington explains that Class V roads minimum speed limit allowed is 25 mph. Chief Jones questions if a change would require a Warrant Article. D. Garlington indicates it would only need a public hearing. Chief Jones explains that she will get the list of roads and review them with D. Garlington.

J. Sherman asks about any costs associated with changing the speed limit. D. Garlington explains that it would be minimal since speed signs are only posted on main roads and not side roads. A brief discussion was held on posting speed limits on roadways. D. Garlington suggests having a public hearing on only the roads that are posted.

L. Withee suggests doing something with Safe Routes to School to educate the people on the speed limits. Chief Jones explains that this could be done through social media including listing the roads and their speed limits. R. Latham suggests a public hearing for all roads to be reduced to 25 mph. General discussion was held on posted and non-posted roads concerning the ability for traffic enforcement.

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Chief Jones confirms the Committee would like a public hearing on all Class V roads being reduced down to 25 mph. J. Sherman questions if all roads posted and non posted will be 25 mph after the public hearing. Chief Jones confirms they will.

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

D. Garlington recommends postponing this business to the next meeting due to the time restraints of today's meeting. Moved to next meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS** – Update on status of a public hearing regarding speed limits on classified roads.

Previously discussed under new business.

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

Due to the absence of Town Planner, G. Jones, this business will be moved to the next meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS** – Update on Walton Road.

Chief Jones briefs the Committee on the public hearing which was held on Monday, Sept 12<sup>th</sup>, with the Board of Selectmen regarding a temporary closure on Walton Road from Route 125. She explains the issues on Walton Road including vehicles speeding and using it as a cut-thru. Chief Jones explains that closing the road from Route 125 would have a very minimal impact on drivers. Further states that the temporary closure is for 3 months and will keep the Committee posted on it. Chief Jones mentions the traffic counts completed by G. Jones for Walton Road and how they showed the volume of cars were high going southbound with 60% of them speeding. D. Garlington briefly mentions that the volume of traffic was double going southbound versus northbound.

## **ACTION ITEMS** –

#1. Electronically distribute monthly Main Street radar panel reports. – Chief Jones mentions the technical issue recently preventing the ability to obtain the reports. However, it's since been resolved so she will get the reports shortly.

#2. Run quarterly traffic statistics on Main, Elm, and Forrest Streets. – Distributed 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter statistics.

#3. Invite NH DOT back to Board of Selectmen for an update on the Rte 125 widening project. – J. Sherman suggests removing this action item since the project is just about completed.

#4. Look into locations to best place radar signs. – Chief Jones informs everyone that the radar panels have been ordered and are expected in the next few weeks. Also, mentions that these units will be portable.

#5. Review any e-mails to Chief Jones from members outlining problems on Main Street and possible solutions to create a priority list. - No emails have been submitted, action item can be closed. J. Sherman briefly mentions the TAP grant the Town applied for regarding Main Street and requests adding an action item, "Presentation to Committee on TAP Grant".

#6. Run class counts through Rockingham Planning Commission on Border Avenue slip lane northbound. – Due to Town Planner, G. Jones, absence this item was not discussed.

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#7. Look into making entrance/exit at Westville Road/NH Park-n-Ride 2 way. – M. Dorman confirms NH DOT will remove the no exit sign at the park-n-ride by Freedom Tire, but this is all they will agree to. Action item is closed.

#8. Contact K. Russell at NH DOT regarding opticom issues along Rte 125. - Chief Jones explains that she's received no response to her inquiries and will continue to reach out to NH DOT. Chief McArdle explains the difficulty in getting any response to inquiries made on this matter. J. Sherman suggests reaching out to Norm Major as a resource.

#9. Schedule traffic counts on Rte 125 before Border Ave. – Due to Town Planner, G. Jones, absence this item was not discussed.

## **OTHER BUSINESS –**

None

**ADJOURNMENT-** Motion to adjourn by Chief McArdle, seconded by D. Garlington. None opposed – all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

## **NEXT MEETING DATE – TBD**

Respectfully submitted,  
Sarah Gibbs, Recording Secretary