



TOWN OF SUNAPEE
23 Edgemont Road
Sunapee, New Hampshire 03782
Phone: (603) 763-2212 Fax: (603) 763-4925

Highway Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

March 4th, 2024

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Safety Services Building – 9 Sargent Rd.

Present: Frederick Gallup, Selectboard Representative; Brenda Thomas, School District Transportation Director; John Galloway, Fire Chief; Neil Cobb, Police Chief; Michael Martell, Highway Director; Jim Dutille, Resident Representative

Also present: Town Manager Shannon Martinez; Jennifer McClaine, Highway Business Manager

1. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

MOTION to appoint Highway Director Martell as Chair of the committee made by Chief Galloway and seconded by Transportation Director Thomas.

A vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION to appoint Chief Cobb as Vice Chair of the committee made by Director Martell, seconded by Selectboard Member Gallup.

A vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

2. REVIEW/UPDATE HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMITTEE PURPOSE/GUIDLINES

Ms. Martinez clarified the purpose of this committee is to make recommendations to the Selectboard for the establishment of highway safety programs, review and make recommendations regarding current and future needs for traffic control signs, review requests for traffic control signs, advise any town board or committee on matters regarding highway safety, and ensure collaboration surrounding any issues surrounding roadways.

The committee will meet quarterly or as frequently as deemed necessary.

Ms. Martinez noted that it needs to be stated that there are two members of the public on the committee rather than one.

Selectboard Member Gallup recommended that the committee continue using these guidelines and adjust where needed as they have more meetings.

Chief Galloway recommended that the committee make the resident representative a one-year term. After the current resident representatives complete their three-years terms, the terms will move to one-year terms.



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3. REVIEW/MEETING PAST MINUTES/AGENDAS

JUNE 3, 2020

Topic: Posting Bradford Rd. – No through trucking.

Discussion:

Director Martell confirmed that the road has been posted with a “no through trucking” sign.

Ms. Martinez asked if Chief Cobb could increase patrolling of this area.

Chief Cobb explained that to enforce trucking on posted roads the trucks must be weighed and ticketed based on the certified scaled weight. The weight manifest is not enough for prosecution.

Selectboard Member Gallup recommended contacting the GPS apps (Waze & Google) to provide truckers with alternative routes and to list which roads are closed to through trucking.

Ms. Martinez recommended for clarity that Ms. McClaine send the PD and Chief Cobb an updated list of road permits each morning to better enforce through trucking. Additionally, she recommended a continued conversation about reviewing and changing the road permit program based on the influx of trucking on roads and enforcement concerns. **During the 4/3 Highway Safety Committee Meeting, Chief Cobb aimed to rectify a statement he previously made regarding the exemption of "Utility Vehicles" from posted roads, stating they do not require a permit. It should be clarified that Utility Vehicles do indeed require a permit unless it's for emergency work.**

Topic: Harbor Loop Ped/Bike Safety Signage

Mr. Dutille notes signage on the loop road where pedestrians travel frequently and recommended mobile electronic signs that are on a schedule and are frequently moved.

SEPTEMBER 24, 2020

Topic: Engine Brake Restriction Request for Old Springfield Rd. & Route 11

Selectboard Member Gallup recommended the PD talk with companies directly that are using their engine brakes frequently.

Director Martell asked if there had been any recent complaints and Ms. Martinez confirmed there had been.

For safety reasons, Chief Galloway expressed concerns about enforcing a restriction, with or without an ordinance, as it would prevent trucks from using this device which could prevent from being to stop in emergency situations.



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Topic: Main Street & Garnet Street Intersection Realignment

Chief Galloway recommended that the crosswalk at the corner near Fenton's Landing be moved away from the corner as people crowd in that corner without the intention of crossing which confuses traffic.

4. COMMITTEE ACTION ITEMS

Discussion:

Chief Cobb would like to see ordinance changes based on numerous complaints he has received regarding various issues:

- Concerns about parking on Elm Street given the 16 ft. rule which limits lanes from being reduced to less than 16 ft.
- Concerns with overnight parking and seasonal changes with parking such as the 2-hour rules.
 - Parking concerns on North Rd. near the sports fields
- Chief Cobb would like to see the limiting of single trailers in town as individuals will park their trailer somewhere, unhook it, and park their car in the Sunapee Harbor.
- Concerns about the length of trailer parking spots in Georges Mills harbor as trailers are getting longer and blocking resident parking spots.
- Concerns about through trucking on Maple St. – it was Chief Cobb's recommendation to post "no through trucking" on Maple St. Additionally, there are speed concerns on Maple St.
- Concerns about the cross walks in the harbor.

ACTION: Chief Cobb will create a red line version of ordinances and present it to the committee in their next meeting.

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Selectboard Member Gallup would like the committee to continue to discuss the topic of staying consistent with the state's safety reviews of the corridor of Route 11 that passes through town. He expressed concerns about not having been able to move the speed limit sign coming down the hill into Sunapee closer to Mount Royal. Chief Cobb responded in saying that the state has closed the issue as they do not see it as a concern.

Additionally, Selectboard Gallup would like the committee to figure out how to get the state to put deceleration lanes near Browns Hill.

Director Martell would like to have a letter send to the owner of the retaining wall on Main St. past the Wildwood Smokehouse on the left as it is falling and moving further into Main St.



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6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment was limited to three minutes per resident.

Peter Hoesktra wanted to thank the committee for highlighting Maple St.

Steve Marshall suggested that the committee address the seasonal parking situation on Main St. in Georges Mills now that it is a two-way street. In the summer, both sides of the street are used for overflow boat parking from the Georges Mills harbor. Mr. Marshall would like to see “no parking” signs posted.

Gary Summerton wanted to thank the committee for the “no parking” signs posted on Elm St. However, he noted that individuals are still parking there creating safety concerns for his family. For example, someone did a U-turn into his driveway after parking on the street and people will often go wrong way on the road so that they can park near the post office steps despite more than enough parking at the post office.

Doug Hanson wants to thank the committee for address Route 11 as the traffic is getting crazy. He asked if there is anything that residents can do to address Route 11. Such as, can a traffic safety study be done? He proposed putting roundabouts in various locations in town like near Avery Rd. and 103B or near the safety services building.

Debbie Samalis recommended a crosswalk be put in front of the Wildwood Smokehouse as there is a lack of parking and the parking spots that are there are overnight spots which are deterring business. The resident suggested a time change of “no parking” in the spots near the Wildwood Smokehouse until 10PM or change the overnight parking to elsewhere in the town.

Lt. Putschler has noticed significant problems with the Fenton’s Landing crosswalk since Fenton’s Landing began using their corner entrance. He suggested reaching out to the Fenton’s about using alternative entrance to alleviate the confusion of drivers and pedestrians at that crosswalk.

7. NEXT MEETING DATE/TIME

Moving forward committee meetings will be one Wednesday a month at 9 a.m.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, April 3 at 9 a.m.