
Highway Safety Committee Minutes 2010/06/10

Minutes – June 10, 2010, 10:45 AM
Town Office Conference Room

Committee members present: Pauline Field, Shaun O'Keefe, Dina Cutting, Russell Stearns and Charles Ragan. Public members present: Wallace Ragan, Dan Brand and Wayne Bates. Minutes recorded by Pauline Field.

- Review of Minutes of 04/01/10- approved
- Request for pedestrian safety signs on Orford Road by Loch Lyme Lodge. Inn-keepers had made request to state DOT and were redirected to the Town. The committee reviewed information provided by O'Keefe relative to the existing signage in this area and then voted to request that the BOS send a letter to the DOT to request up-dated signage for the area.
- Discussion about May 6, 2010 public forum and how to proceed with bicycle/vehicle safety initiatives. Members voted to form a subcommittee chaired by Shaun O'Keefe. O'Keefe is to identify members for the subcommittee and develop ideas consistent with the public education campaign. Specifically, the initiatives will target River Road, as this is a popular bicycle route. There were individuals at the public forum that were interested in participating and O'Keefe is to make contact with them.
- Wayne Bates suggested that the Town seek to borrow/rent/purchase "speed radar trailer" to be placed in various locations around town. Bates advised that he had seen one in Piermont and suggested that it was a good deterrent to speed.
- Discussed the DOT public meeting about the Main & E. Thetford Roads intersection. At that meeting, the DOT developed a consensus from the meeting to move forward with plan #3. We support those plans (which were very similar to our proposed plan) and Field indicated that she would continue to attend the public meetings and support the DOT's efforts. The next DOT meeting is scheduled for June 16, 2010 at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall Conference room. Dan Brand commented that the cooperative work efforts between local and state officials was being touted by state officials as a positive prototype for solving problems.
- Discussion regarding trees and brush that obstruct sight lines:
 - River Road at intersection of E. Thetford Road
 - Union Street at Library driveway
 - Pinnacle Road at intersection of Orford Road

These issues are related to the State roads and will be forward to the State DOT.

- O'Keefe brought to our attention the Stop signs at the corner of Goose Pond and Baker Hill Roads are non-reflective and have stickers defacing their surface. Highway Dept rep, Russ Stearns advised that he would pass the message to Highway Agent.
- Follow-up:
- According to R. Stearns, "No Parking on Travelled Way" signs have been posted at the intersection of Dorchester Road and Grafton Turnpike.

- Matt Stevens, Appalachian Trail Conservancy is working on getting the appropriate signage at the parking area and trail area as we requested.
- Concerns about skateboarders travelling on Dorchester Road in travel lanes. O'Keefe advised that he believed that he knew who the individual was and would talk to him about the concerns.
- Russ Stearns has joined the Highway Safety Committee as the Highway Department representative.
- Discussion regarding the "Request for Road Signs" guide/form. Field advised the committee that the Board of Selectmen had requested that we implement a standardized mechanism for the public to request road signs. The proposed form would be reviewed by the safety committee and Road Agent for approval. If the request was to be denied, the applicant could then go to the Board of Selectmen for review. This process was to be implemented to stream-line the requests in a consistent manner. There is no requirement for the Highway Department to use the form to replace existing signs or to place warning signs. This form is to be used when there is a request for a sign from a citizen but can also be used by Town Departments to document and memorialize the placement of signs.
- Field advised that BOS has also requested that a "charge" for the committee be developed. Field advised that she had a rough draft that she would send via email for review and editorial comments and then it would be forwarded to the BOS. All agreed to review and comment...BOS is to make decision of final wording.
- Meeting Adjourned at 11:50 AM