

August 28, 2023, Highway Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

The meeting was held in the Community Room at the Police Department, 14 Village Green, Pelham, NH 03076.

In attendance was the following members of the committee: Police Chief Anne Perriello, Acting Fire Chief John Ignatowicz, Highway Director Jim Hoffman, Planning Director Jenn Beauregard, and Planning Department Office Manager Cassidy Pollard taking minutes.

Meeting began at 10:02am

CONTINUED BUSINESS

Peaceful Drive Speeding Concerns:

Chief Perriello informed the Committee that the Police Department set up a traffic monitor and there was anywhere from 142-222 cars a day with one outlier with a speed of 63mph. She stated that she has driven by the area five times at this point and would support a 'Children at Play' sign on Main Street as you're headed towards Perfect Place. She explained she would like it approximately 500' or so prior to Perfect Place heading southbound on Main Street. She stated that she does not support 'No Heavy Trucking' as it is a primarily Commercial area, and the volume of traffic is not there.

MOTION: (Perriello/Beauregard) To support a 'Children at Play' sign on Main Street.

VOTE: (4-0-0) The motion carried.

MOTION: (Perriello- no second) To support a 'No Heavy Trucking' sign on Main Street.

VOTE: (0-4-0) The motion failed.

Chief Perriello informed the Committee that Kim Abare often sends her complaints from her constituents and one of them sat down and spoke with her because they wanted a speed sign on Main Street at some point. She stated that they called the Police Department and that they're on the list, but the list is getting longer and longer, but it will get out there at some point.

Mr. Hoffman informed the Committee that the crosswalk has been put in at Sawmill Road. Chief Perriello thanked Mr. Hoffman and the Highway Department for their work. She explained that she informed TA Rourke of Mr. Hoffman's hard work as the Committee had spoken about it and he was the one who did it and put the pavement down. She explained that people are legitimately using it and aren't cutting across the grass. Mr. Hoffman stated that he couldn't get the crosswalk

done by PMS with all the construction vehicles entering and exiting. Chief Perriello stated that she would probably let that crosswalk fade away as there is no sidewalk on the other side and the main reason for the Sawmill Road crosswalk is to get over to Sawmill itself. She said that she rather them stay on the sidewalk on Marsh Road to walk down the road. Chief Perriello stated that she took a ride down to the schools this morning to touch base with our crossing guards as they continue to work and do their jobs and reports that things went smoothly.

NEW BUSINESS

Pine Valley Golf Course – Sight Line Complaint

Chief Perriello informed the Committee of a complaint that she received regarding pulling out of Pine Valley Golf Course from the dirt drive onto the hill area of Route 38. She explained that when she drove over to check it out the northbound traffic was not visible at all and that wouldn't even pull out of the drive herself. She stated that she informed Division Five of the issue, but that she also stopped in and spoke to the owners of Pine Valley to notify them that they do hold some liability in the situation. She told them that they should cut back the trees and stated they could call the Police Department to come out on Route 38 and slow down or stop the traffic while they worked. Mr. Hoffman added that Division Five used to take care of issues like that but have since informed the Town that we're responsible for line of sight for Town roads that pull out onto State roads, so they can maintain those areas. Chief Perriello stated that she drove by in the morning just to make sure things were good and explained that the owners did a great job cutting everything back so that the northbound traffic is visible. Mr. Hoffman informed the Committee that the roadside mower has been down for two weeks due to a broken piston. He stated that the machine is made in Germany and a new one is expensive and would take months to get, so he found a place in Bedford that can repair it and it should be ready this week. Chief Perriello informed the Committee that the owners are looking to pave that dirt drive which will be better for vehicles pulling out onto 38. Mr. Hoffman added that the Highway Department cut back the overgrowth in the triangle where Main Street meets 38 past the golf course with a brush mower about a week or two ago.

Currier Road / Jericho Road – Stop Sign Evaluation

Chief Perriello informed that committee that a resident had asked for them to evaluate the stop sign at Currier and Jericho Road. Mr. Hoffman informed the committee that the same resident had asked for a stop sign to be place coming out of the Williwow Street Plaza. Ms. Beauregard stated that there is a stop sign on a telephone pole over there but wasn't sure if that was allowed. Mr. Hoffman added that the power company will most likely take that down. Ms. Beauregard added that Code Enforcement Officer John Lozowski did go and look at it, but the Site Plan for the Plaza doesn't show anywhere that he is required to put up a stop sign. Chief Perriello asked what the resident was looking for regarding Currier Road / Jericho Road. Mr. Hoffman stated that they had called to let them know that there needs to be a stop sign there but didn't specify which road or which side. Chief Perriello added that there is a stop sign there, and asked if it was just

not visible. Mr. Hoffman stated that it does get overgrown, but that they do keep cutting it back. Chief Perriello stated that in her 23 years of service for the Town that they have not responded to a crash at this intersection and believes that things are flowing well. Mr. Hoffman referenced when the Brunswick Circle subdivision was put in and how neighbors pushed back against a stop sign being put in and made the developer black out the stop bar on Jericho. Chief Perriello stated that the Police Department doesn't get called down there either and that it isn't a hot spot for them. She stated that she does not agree with a stop there and asked the Committee if they would like one there. None replied in favor of the stop sign.

Hayden Road Update

Ms. Beauregard asked how Hayden Road was going. Chief Perriello stated that she did receive one complaint and CC'd her response to the woman to the Highway Safety Committee. She stated that the woman wanted to inform us that they're having a problem since the sign was taken down. She shared information with her that was also shared with her neighbors, and she was happy to see that things were in motion. She informed the Committee that it is on the Board of Selectmen Agenda for the September 19th meeting. She stated that she will be there and will send an email out to those neighbors informing them of the meeting and if they would like to speak on it. She explained that she will take pictures of the area and send them to the Selectmen for the meeting. She added that the speed sign was added back to the area on Friday to monitor the area leading up to the meeting on September 19th. Acting Fire Chief Ignatowicz asked when Mr. Mendes' road is due to be finished. Mr. Hoffman stated that it's not going to be this year, but that we should set it up and be ready for it.

Roundabout Update

Chief Perriello stated that the Town needs the roundabouts sooner rather than later. Ms. Beauregard explained that a land taking needs to occur and if the initial appraisal of the land were to come out under \$10,000 they wouldn't need an actual appraisal. She stated that the way they appraised the land is that the first acre is the most valuable, which doesn't make sense because the portion where the roundabout is going to be is a wetland. She explained that the land was valued as doubled and now a true appraisal is required. She stated that DOT was trying to move this along and it would be broken up in two phases with Sherburne Road and Mammoth Road happening first then Mammoth Road and Marsh Road where there are more abutters involved and the moving of a septic system. She explained that there was a warrant article for the Town's portion of the funding that expires on December 31st of this year if we have not entered into an agreement with a contractor and that appraisers are three to four months out. She stated that in the last meeting with DOT, VHB our engineer, and TA Roark on Friday and have now planning to put this back on the ballot as no new tax impact. She explained that if it passes that advertising for construction wouldn't be happening until April of 2024 and construction could potentially begin at the end of 2024. Chief Perriello stated that she has authorized two Officers to be there from 3pm until 6pm but is only budgeted for two hours. She thanked Ms.

Beauregard for the update and was happy to hear that work is being done to move the project along.

Wellesley Drive / Colby Lane – Request for an “All Way Stop” at intersection

Chief Perriello stated that this isn't an area where the Police Department gets called to and is the first time that they've heard a complaint. Mr. Hoffman stated that he was only informed by the resident of this request because he was out in that area. He explained that Pennichuck is getting ready to redo the neighborhood in September. He stated that he is going to have them pave where they are stopping and then up to the new part of Wellesley so that it's all one nice road. Chief Perriello asked if there was a stop sign at Colby. Mr. Hoffman stated that there isn't one at Colby, there isn't one at Radcliffe and there isn't one at Vassar. Chief Perriello stated that she would recommend that she puts some directive patrol for the neighborhood to watch for speeding vehicles and stop sign violations, and if there are multiple issues, we will bring it back to the Committee for discussion. Ms. Beauregard asked if she wanted to revisit this at the next meeting. Chief Perriello stated that she would revisit it only if there are statistics to back it up. Mr. Hoffman stated that the resident claims that there have been several accidents involving traffic coming out of Colby onto Wellesley. Chief Perriello stated that she didn't know of any. Acting Fire Chief Ignatowicz asked how much the speed limit signs that they put up cost. Chief Perriello stated that they are pricey, around \$4,200 each. Acting Fire Chief Ignatowicz asked if she finds that they help to slow people down. Chief Perriello stated that they slow people down the first time they go by it and conscientious people will drive safely, others won't. She stated that she would be shocked if Wellesley wasn't one of the roads on the list and that list keeps growing. She stated that they already needed to get more batteries because if they are in a high traffic volume area that the batteries die out quickly. She explained that it's easy to switch out the batteries, but that it's not easy to move them and that DEM volunteers his time and helps them to do that. Acting Fire Chief Ignatowicz asked when the sign picks up the speed can it tell if the driver slowed down. Chief Perriello stated that it just picked up the speed. She explained that with the paving going on the sign would get in the way of the work being done but will put an extra patrolman out along with the speed sign.

10 Bridge Street Plaza – Discussion on proposed food truck “Steve’s Street Meats”

Chief Perriello stated that Mr. Kaltsas is proposing a food truck that he wants to permanently leave at 10 Bridge Street, which is the plaza where the Hookah Lounge, Mike's Pizza and First Chance Convenience are located. She explained that the Board of Selectmen referred it to the HSC and the Planning Board. Ms. Beauregard stated that he applied for a Hawkers and Peddlers License but wanted to park the food truck permanently which would take up some of his Site Plan. She explained that even though it's mobile keeping it parked for periods of time would make it a permanent structure and that's why the Selectmen denied the Hawkers and Peddlers License and sent it to the Planning Board for a Site Plan Review and Conservation.

Chief Perriello asked what the safety issues are in this and if he was taking up one more parking spot and there isn't enough parking anymore. Ms. Beauregard stated that the lot already exceeds the parking that they have which doesn't accommodate the businesses upstairs. She explained that the Planning Board informed her that all the units upstairs aren't occupied because they don't have enough parking spaces for those businesses. She explained that Planning Assistant Ms. Karalekas marked the plan based on where he stated he would like to park the food truck and it's within the WCD which is why it's being sent to Conservation, but he already had permission to park vehicles there. She stated that he is looking to park it in the grassy area which would put him within the Sates right-of-way which he can't do. Chief Perriello added that it would cause people to stop on Route 38 and jump out to get food. Ms. Beauregard stated that another problem that she sees safety wise would be that he wants this business to run from 11am to midnight while the Hookah Loung is operating as a BYOB. She stated that in her opinion it would be drunken people hanging in the parking lot trying to get food from a food truck and doesn't know how safe it will be with vehicles trying to get in and out and the amount of people that would be out there. She explained that he isn't looking to do outdoor seating right now, but that they would like to add it eventually if they could. She stated that it is her opinion that it would be a bad idea for him to be parked at this lot with not knowing the number of people they're getting in the area at during those times.

Mr. Hoffman asked if this would include having restrooms out there. Ms. Beauregard stated that they wouldn't have restrooms and that it would literally just be the food truck. She explained that they had to submit their inspections from the State and Health Department as part of the Hawkers and Peddlers License package. She stated that she informed Mr. Kaltsas that it was her opinion to forgo this idea and get a regular Hawkers and Peddlers License. She explained that the Selectmen let the Shaved Ice truck park on the same lot for the day, sell his ice, and then move on, however Mr. Kaltsas wants to leave his truck and move it every few days. She stated that Conservation will most likely say that they don't want it parked next to the drainage easement that they have on the lot but there are also approved parking spots in that area as well. Acting Fire Chief Ignatowicz stated that there are three or four dumpsters on the left-hand side of the lot. Ms. Beauregard stated that the Board had an issue with the dumpsters as well as the propane station and if those got permission to be where they are. Acting Fire Chief Ignatowicz explained that they are on well water on that lot and a food truck will need water to do whatever they do. He explained that in the past there had been a problem with utilizing the well water because of the proximity to the underground tanks and wondered if it would be the same now. Ms. Beauregard added that she doesn't know if he would be hooking up to water and would think that it would need to be self-contained within the truck.

Chief Perriello asked where the property owner was on this matter. Ms. Beauregard added that the property owner Leo Zisis gave him written permission to do this just as he has in the past with the Shaved Ice truck. The committee discussed previous food trucks that were operating around Town and how they needed to be mobile and couldn't be permanent and park overnight, that they had to come and go daily. Chief Perriello stated that the Town doesn't allow permanent

food trucks anywhere in Town and that the Committee would support them being mobile and getting an official Hawkers and Peddlers license just like other food trucks have been required to do. Ms. Beauregard asked where the people would be walking to get to the food truck and if they would be walking across the parking lot while vehicles are pulling in and out of the lot. Chief Perriello added that she would support the truck being back further and not by the entrance, however it would still need to be mobile and pull in and out. She stated that hours are not in the purview of the Highway Safety Committee. Ms. Beauregard stated that if they were to get a Hawkers and Peddlers then it would be in the purview of the Selectmen and if they were to be able to leave it permanently then it would be under the purview of the Planning Board. Acting Fire Chief Ignatowicz asked what the definition of mobile is, and if he were to park it in one spot during the day and then move it into another for the night if that would be considered mobile. Chief Perriello stated that there shouldn't be any overnight parking over there. Mr. Hoffman added that where he wants to park it would cause a lot of people to stop on Route 38 right in the breakdown lane. Ms. Beauregard agreed that this location is probably not the best place for it.

Chief Perriello asked how he would keep that food going and if he would be bringing in large propane tanks near the businesses now that they're saying to move the truck back off of 38. She asked if there would be a potential hazard because they would be bringing in propane tanks that they would actively be using which is a safety issue. She stated that if he is looking to keep this business open after dark, she wouldn't recommend that it be parked by Route 38 anyway because of the lack of lighting and proper lighting would need to be in place for the foot traffic to the food truck.

Ms. Beauregard added that Mr. Kaltsas's argument is that the business isn't really operating at full capacity right now. She stated that it may not be operating fully right now, but it can, and it might, and those parking spaces are still accounted for, for that business. Acting Fire Chief Ignatowicz added that all he has to do is keep it a mobile food truck and he would have no issue. Ms. Beauregard stated that she advised them to do that and go back to the Selectmen and to be mobile. She added that the Selectmen would have the authority to limit their hours of operation and that the Committee could suggest that it not be after 9 or 10pm. She stated that Conservation will be all over this because the entire lot is located on a wetland but doesn't know if the food truck would affect the wetlands any more than anything else that's there as they filled the lot to even get this property.

Chief Perriello stated that the committee does not support this being a permanent food truck parked in the parking lot as they have already exceeded their parking with the amount of businesses there to the point that there aren't businesses running in the above units. She stated that allowing it to be parked there permanently would be bringing in another business which would need additional parking. She added that if it is a mobile food truck and comes and goes every day and doesn't stay there permanently, then the Committee would support a Hawkers and Peddlers License, but that they would not support it parking near Route 38 for several reasons. She stated that one reason is that there will be people walking near the entrance and

exit of the parking lot. She explained that when it gets dark out the people would be walking in the dark near the entrance and exit and that the Committee would support the food truck being parked closer to the building or further back on the left side for the safety of the customers going the food truck. She explained that in the past history with the Town, food trucks such as Jose's Hot Dogs and Mel's could not be permanently parked and couldn't see why the Committee would support it now in a much tighter location that is already pushing the limits with parking.

Meeting Adjourned 10:53am

Respectfully submitted,

Cassidy Pollard