



Durham Public Safety Committee

MEETING MINUTES

12/13/2006

6:30 PM to 7:30 PM

Durham Public Library

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Frank DeFelice at 6:30 PM. The following members were in attendance:

- Frank DeFelice
- Bill Smith
- Mal Pearce
- Dan Murphy
- John Szewczyk

Past Minutes: Minutes of the November 8, 2006 meeting were read by Bill Smith and accepted:

- Motion to Accept: M. Pearce
- Seconded: D. Murphy

The following items were discussed:

2007 Meeting Dates: It was agreed to change the meeting dates for 2007 to the First Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM. (F. DeFelice to secure meeting location prior to December 31, 2006; issue PSC 2007 Meeting Calendar; 2007 Committee Member List).

Mica Hill Road Line-of Site Issues: Documents submitted by resident Charles Doe of 207 Mica Hill Road were assembled, including a petition signed by neighbors. The Public Safety Committee conducted a sight walk along the area of concern on Mica Hill Road earlier this year. Committee voted unanimously (Motion by D. Murphy / Second by M. Pearce) to submit the following recommendations to the Board of Selectmen:

- 1) Vegetation along the sides of Mica Hill Road (especially at the "S-Curve") impeding vehicular line-of-sight should be removed immediately and regularly throughout the year.
- 2) Existing signage on Mica Hill Road be replaced to include the following:
 - New Speed Limit Signs.
 - Prominent warning of the approaching "S-Curve" using large arrows.
- 3) The School Board / Bus Company should be contacted to evaluate the direction of travel for school buses along Mica Hill Road.

Sand Hill Road: Letters from resident Susan Del Vecchio of 61 Sand Hill Road were presented regarding suggested improvements to signage along Sand Hill Road, and line-of-sight issues and at the intersection of Sand Hill Road and Route 79. Committee members have previously submitting a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen regarding the line-of-sight issues at this intersection.

F. DeFelice reported that he discussed traffic concerns with Lt. Steve Constagliano from CSP Troop F during the first week of December and that subsequently; the SMART Machine has been placed along Sand Hill Road and enforcement activities increased. A follow-up letter from resident Susan Del Vecchio was read for the record, thanking the Public Safety Committee for their timely assistance with this matter. Committee members voted unanimously (Motion by M. Pearce / Second by D. Murphy) to submit the following recommendations to the Board of Selectmen:

- 1) Vegetation and sand which is piled along the edges of Route 79 near the intersection of Sand Hill Road and Route 79 should be removed immediately to improve vehicular line-of-sight.
- 2) Signage along Sand Hill Road should be replaced and speed limit signs added.

Maple Avenue: F. DeFelice presented a information on a “traffic calming” device designed to reduce vehicle speeds along Maple Avenue or other rural roadways, which may be experiencing excessive vehicular speeds. This system, known as “Milled Rumble Strips” is milled directly into the existing pavement in a cellular pattern using a machine. The cellular pattern permits snowplows to traverse the strip without dipping into the milled recesses, and allows the pavement to withstand freeze/thaw cycles without de-lamination. Sections along one or both sides of the roadway would remain un-touched; permitting a safe travel lane for bicyclists and pedestrians. DeFelice presented an proposal from Costello Industries of Newington, Connecticut to install two sections of these strips, at an estimated cost of \$4,975 for both strips. (Proposed locations for placement of these devices remain to be decided).The committee also submitted a request for review of this design to the Durham Public Works Department and is awaiting their reply. Other “traffic calming” devices will be evaluated by the committee, including “center-milling”, “side milling” and temporary devices. Placement of temporary devices may require a modification to the town’s insurance agreement.

Committee members unanimously recommended that a renewed emphasis be placed on utilization of the “SMART” machine and the presence of speed enforcement along Maple Avenue by CSP Troop F.

Higganum Road Lighting: The committee has set a date to perform a site visit on Higganum Road to determine lighting requirement and identify potential placement locations at 6:00 PM on Tuesday, January 2, 2007, immediately prior to the start of their meeting. *(2007 Meeting Date of First Tuesday).*

Other Business: D. Murphy proposed that the committee develop a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to more efficiently address traffic issues and concerns.

Adjournment: There being no other business before the committee, the committee adjourned.

- Motion to Adjourn: D. Murphy
- Seconded: J. Szewczyk