

HIGHWAY SAFETY MEETING

March 31, 2008

On March 31, 2008, the department heads discussed the following highway safety issues and made the following recommendations.

Attendance: Gerry Lewis, Alfred Turner, Tom McPherson, and Bob Coole. Absent was, Al Barlow, Jack McCartney. Meeting called began at 10:05 am at the Fire Department.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

No Minutes were Reviewed

PLANNING BOARD PLANS

None Reviewed

HIGHWAY SAFETY ISSUES

Speed Limits -

Committee reviewed letter received by Dave Sullivan dated February 15, 2008. This letter provided the committee with the requested information regarding roads that the Board of Selectmen has previously voted to lower the speed limit to 25 mph. These were;

Marblehead Road – 1997 Hardwood Road – 2004 Faith Road – 2003 Cardinal & Oriole Roads – 2004 Sheffield Road – 2007 Westchester Road - 2007

Collins Brook Road Parking Issue -

Committee reviewed (2) letters received by Dave Sullivan regarding Collins Brook Road. One letter which was sent to Pam Mitchell, Bureau of Highway Design and to Jack McCartney, Road agent requesting the installation of signs within this area. Committee will check with Road Agent as to date signs will be installed and will monitor the state's activity.



Route 111 @ Wall St. Right Turn Lane-

Request by the Board of Selectmen for the committee to review and comment on the Right Turn/Merge Lane located on Route 111 @ Wall Street.

The Committee discussed at length, the current issues associated with the turn/merge lane just west of the traffic lights. Police Chief Gerald Lewis had concerns with the elimination of the merge lane mostly because of the potential increased traffic back up it could cause in the west bound lane. He also felt that the current design allows for motorists inadvertently caught in the right turn lane, to have some room to get into the proper lane. If eliminated, he felt this would cause an increased traffic hazard. Chief Lewis provided the committee with information that indicated for calendar years 2006 and 2007, no traffic accident history at this intersection was a result of the merge lane. Only one accident was recorded in 2006 at this intersection. Fire Department statistics also show similar information.

After further discussion, Al Turner made a motion that the Highway Safety Committee takes no position regarding the merge lane west of Wall Street. He added that the committee has no data to support a concern for safety at this time and he too, felt that by eliminating this lane it would create additional traffic back up east of this intersection. Seconded by Bob Coole.

Passed unanimous.

Chairman will send letter to Board of Selectmen

Al Turner motioned to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 am

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