



OLD VALUES – NEW HORIZONS

TOWN OF WINDHAM, NEW HAMPSHIRE

HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMITTEE

POST OFFICE BOX 120, 3 NORTH LOWELL ROAD, WINDHAM NH 03087-0120

HIGHWAY SAFETY MEETING

January 31, 2008

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

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

PLANNING BOARD PLANS

None Reviewed

HIGHWAY SAFETY ISSUES

Rename Private Driveway currently known as Brewster Road–

Received correspondence from Town Administrator David Sullivan requesting the Highway Safety Committee review a request from Peter Zohdie to rename a private driveway currently known as Brewster Road to one of the following names:

- (1) Brook Hollow Road
- (2) Castle Brook Road
- (3) Ridge Crest Road

Discussion ensued relative to these names which conflict with road names that currently exist and the possible confusion with E-9-1-1. Committee also discussed issues arising from not following the accepted list of approved road names by the Highway Safety / Historic Commission / Board of Selectmen.

Al Turner motioned to deny request unless applicant can verify/show proposed street names are on the approved list. Seconded by B. Coole.

Passed unanimously

Speed Limits –

Chairman McPherson informed the committee that, at their regularly scheduled meeting on Monday January 28, 2008, Board of Selectmen member Bruce Bretton made a motion to reduce the speed limit on Westchester Road to 25 mph. Selectmen Bretton also stated that there were several other roads in town in which the speed limit was reduced without the input of the highway safety committee and that it was their decision if so chosen. After a brief discussion by the board, Town Administrator stated that he was adamantly opposed to this



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request for the following reasons; 1) that per state statute, the lowering of a speed limit below the “Prima Facie” includes having an engineering study or investigation done to support this, 2) the highway safety committee process should be used. Chairman McPherson also spoke to the board indicating that the committee was meeting that Thursday and would be happy to discuss this issue. The board voted 3-2 (Chairman A. Carpenter, M. Crisler opposed) to support the motion.

The committee discussed this at length. G. Lewis spoke of the Federal Guidelines that must be followed when changing speed limits or impacting traffic controls. This manual is referred to (MUTCD) Manual for Uniform Traffic Control Devices. He also spoke of the 80th percentile when performing traffic studies. G. Lewis also stated his concerns relating to stop signs being used as a form of speed control thus reducing its effect as an actual stop sign and from an enforcement issue.

Motion made by A. Turner to request from Board of Selectmen to supply the Highway Safety Committee a list of streets where they have lowered the speed limit without the required procedures and criteria under RSA 265:63 as these speed limits can not be legally enforced and to recommend that the state statutes be followed for establishing speed limits. Seconded by G. Lewis. Further discussion by G. Lewis continued with possibility of looking into town wide speed reduction unless otherwise posted and possible adoption of MUTCD.

Passed unanimously

Collins Brook Road Parking Issue –

T. McPherson received phone call from resident on Collins Brook Road regarding a severe traffic/Parking issue that occurred recently during a function at Center School. Resident stated that vehicles were parked on both sides of Collins Brook Road making the passage for emergency vehicles impossible. Resident stated that this is a continual problem each time the school has a function.

After discussion motion by A. Turner to table the matter until next scheduled meeting on February 6, 2008 and for committee members prior to next meeting perform a site walk of Collins Brook Road for possible ideas. Seconded by G. Lewis.

Passed unanimously.



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Police Department Request –

Committee heard a request made by Chief Lewis for Highway Safety Committee to formally support the submission of a questionnaire to NH Highway Safety Agency for various grant funded programs the Police Department would be interested in pursuing such as DWI Enforcement, In-Car Video Cameras, Speed Enforcement, etc.... Questionnaire must be returned in order for agencies to be considered for funding.

Committee voted unanimously to support this request.

Next Meeting –

Wednesday February 6, 2008 beginning at 10 am in the Planning Department

G. Lewis motioned to adjourn. Seconded by A. Turner

Meeting adjourned at 11:10 am

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