

## Selectmen's Meeting Minutes Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Present: Chairman Krieger, Selectman Ives and Selectman Fiske.

Also present was Chief Wright, Bill Lake, Tom Dow, Dave Powelson, Sergeant Akerstrom.

The Board met with Mike Tardiff from CRNHPC and Bill Lambert, Keith Cota, Bill Cass and Roger Appleton from NH DOT at 5:00 pm.

- a. Bill Lambert said traffic signals were installed in urban areas with a lot of congestion. Operating speeds are normally lower as it's not on a highway, no more than 45 MPH.
- b. Bill Lambert went through the slides provided. He stated DOT likes to set the speed limit in the 85 percentile, as this creates the lowest crash rate.
- c. Staniels Road intersection has advanced microwave detection if a vehicle is coming into the intersection too fast the green will hold a little longer.
- d. Bill Lambert said he recommends no lower than 50 MPH through intersections, and to have a dilemma zone in all areas, not just Staniels Road.
- e. Steve Ives said if in the dilemma zone was for a single car, and there were five vehicles would the light continue to stay green. Bill Lambert said it won't hold it forever and will go to yellow preparing people to stop.
- f. Alan Sanborn asked who was in favor of discontinuing the lights. The Selectmen let him know that was the overhead lighting, not the signal lights. Mr. Sanborn asked Mr. Lambert if he was in favor of lowering the speed limit. Mr. Lambert said there are five different speed limits through the corridor so he'd like to see something more homogenous. Alan Sanborn stated with Staniels Rd there are two lanes going straight and the right lane has become a passing lane at high speeds. Mr. Sanborn also stated there is potential for a head on collision with the intersection for Chichester Road and 106 as the left lane would create a passing lane at a high rate of speed. Bill Lambert said sometimes just changing the number on the speed limit sign doesn't make the speed go up or down.
- g. Keith Cota spoke about the design of Staniels Road intersection which was suggested by the highway safety program. Before the signals this area was a high risk intersection with 19 crashes between 2002 – 2011; two of them fatal crashes.
- h. Selectmen Ives stated that the merge on the Northbound Side of Staniels Road gives people the ability to accelerate to 70 MPH but if it was shorter there wouldn't be that ability. If that was at Chichester South with Dunkin Donuts there would be a concern of rear endings from people passing.
- i. Selectmen Fiske asked if the line could be solid instead of dotted to prevent passing. He posed the question that if there's 150 ft. then a dash isn't it telling drivers they can move from one lane to the other.
- j. Tom Dow said his observation is that people pull up to the red light and as it turns green people shoot over to the right to pass. The right lane has become a speedway and residents are getting frustrated.
- k. Bill Lambert said the signals are similar in operation to Route 4 in Epsom, Route 9 and 125 in Lee and Route 3. This traffic signal is designed for future conditions

and investment purposes. Today the traffic is heavy but in the future it will be heavier. In future if people stay in the single lane it could take two cycles to get through the light, so people will learn to move over.

- l. Earl Foss stated he goes through the intersection six times per day and he's seen a fully loaded 10 wheeler over the speed limit.
- m. Roger Appleton from highway maintenance bureau spoke about the street lights. 4-5 years ago there were budget cuts, and with looking at saving money one thing that came up was street lights. In 2010 there was 1 million dollars spent on street lights and over a two-year period there were many issues with the utility companies such as double billing. The highway design took a look at highways and intersections and updated their recommendation for which street lights are necessary. With improved street signs, better headlights and road signals the need has changed. In October a letter was sent out outlining the proposal. The original proposal was out of 26 lights 5 would be left on, now Mr. Appleton says the proposal is to leave 6 on. One at Wales Bridge, 2 At Chichester Rd, 2 at 129 and 1 at Shaker Rd. Roger Appleton said there was a comment about new technologies and they are looking at this, LED's are great however they are 6-7 hundred thousand to change out. Utilities charge for the number of street lights you have, whether they are on or off. The goal is to remove the head of the light, and later they will be taken all the way down.
- n. George Saunderson asked if the town wanted to pay if this was an option, and is it all or nothing. Roger Appleton said it's not all or nothing, the typical streetlight is about \$300 a year. You would need to write a letter to ever source to switch the account ledger and then ownership would go to the town.
- o. Chairman Krieger asked if the light goes out does the town fix it. Roger Appleton stated there is an EOL rate for standard lighting. The rate pay is spread out and is figured in, unless the light dies completely Eversource fixes it for no extra charge. There is a site fee of \$95 each time Eversource comes out to change an LED light, and because they are so new right now it's still in the unknown.
- p. Selectman Fiske asked if a fatality occurs is there is a liability issue. Bill Cass said that is why they have established a consistent criteria for a safe level of lighting across the border.
- q. George Saunderson asked if there is a contract involved if the town wanted to keep a few lights and then decided in 2 to 3 years to turn them off. Roger Appleton said you call Eversource and they shut them off. On average its 3-5 hundred dollars to remove.
- r. Chief Wright asked how many would be at the new intersection. Roger Appleton said 2. Chief stated it makes no sense to him how at \$300/light and a million-dollar intersection plus the improvement of 106 the lights are being shut off. Chief Wright stated Loudon is unique, there are lots of people coming here for the first time for motorcycles and races and people are driving faster in this area.
- s. Roger Appleton said they will be executing this plan in the next couple of months; lights will be gone by the end of the calendar year.
- t. Bill Cass said he's open for further discussion.

Chairman Krieger called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

- I. Selectman Ives moved to approve the Selectmen's Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, April 5, 2016 as written. Seconded by Selectman Fiske. All in favor. Motion carried.
- II. The Board met with Deputy Lake and Chief Wright for Board of Permit.
  - a. There were two hawkers and peddlers permits for review.
  - b. A discussion about last month's Zoning Board of Adjustment site walk ensued, including information from planning board, code enforcement and zoning board.
- III. Chief Wright spoke to the board.
  - a. The Fire Department will be adding new members to their team. There will be a recruiting add in the ledger and it is currently on the town website as well.
  - b. The Fire Department will be hosting a 2<sup>nd</sup> alarm mutual aid fire drill on May 16 at NHMS.
  - c. The spaghetti dinner fundraiser will take place on April 30<sup>th</sup> from 5 pm to 7 pm at the Fire Station. This information is in the current ledger and on the sign board.
- IV. Selectmen Fiske read the letter from the Police Chief hiring committee. Selectmen Ives thanked the committee for all of their work.
- V. The Board began their review of weekly correspondence.
  - a. The Board received the April 2016 bill for Merrimack Valley School District in the amount of \$662,890.83.
  - b. The Board received a letter from town attorney regarding Fairpoint.
  - c. The Board received a PA-28 form from Unutil.
  - d. The Board received a change of address and PA-28 from Eversource.
  - e. The Board received the March 2016 Property Transfers.
  - f. The Board received the March 3, 2016 Agriculture Commission Meeting Minutes.
  - g. The Board received two letters regarding from residents regarding the Police Chief Position.
  - h. The Board received a thank you letter from Community Action Program.
  - i. The Board received examples of No Smoking signs for the Community Building and a revised rental form.
  - j. The Board members each received a letter from the Merrimack County Commissioners.
- V. The Board received the following reminders:
  - a. Wednesday, April 14, 2016 at 1:15 is a TCP Meeting.
- VI. Selectman Ives moved to adjourn 6:56 PM. Seconded by Selectman Fiske. All in favor. Motion carried.

LOUDON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

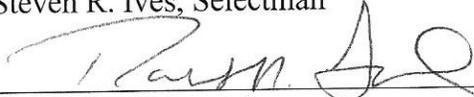


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Robert P. Krieger, Chairman

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Steven R. Ives, Selectman



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Robert N. Fiske, Selectman