

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD

80 State Highway 310, Suite 1
Canton, NY 13617-1493
Phone: 315-386-2207 / Fax: 315-386-2435

Michele James
Executive Secretary

Gary J. Jarvis
Chairman

MINUTES

January 23, 2008

PRESENT: M. James, M. Davison, G. Jarvis, Sheriff K. Wells, Undersheriff S. Bonno,
R. Folsom, L. Moore, A. Peabody, E. Olin, C. Ballard, R. McDougall
ABSENT: Cpt. D. Chauvin, Lt. D. Polniak, M. Bogart, W. Dashnaw

Gary Jarvis called the meeting to order. A motion to approve the Minutes of the October, 2007 meeting was made by Dick McDougall, seconded by Craig Ballard.

TRAFFIC SAFETY ACTIVITIES

Mary informed the Board:

- *Very busy with new 'Parents Who Host Lose the Most' Initiative to discourage parents from hosting underage drinking parties in anticipation of prom and graduation season. Currently working on printed info, radio ads, billboards and web page to get the information out. (Info cards distributed to Board members.)*
- *Continue putting out quarterly newsletter; positive feedback received. (Newsletters distributed to members.)*
- *Provided information to WIC and Transportation Director at Hermon-Dekalb School*
- *Made safety presentations the end of October to Lawrence Avenue Elementary School*
- *Distributing 'Save Your Friend's Life Over the Air Waves' (PSA's to be created by students/competition for prizes)*
- *Funds currently available to purchase bike helmets*
- *Continue distributing new driver packets to DMV*
- *Attended St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center's EAP Fair on November 7; provided winter driving display board, handouts, etc.*
- *Attended Human Services Interagency Meetings in November and January sharing printed materials and info on our programs*
- *Received word of funding for our CPS Grant; will be ordering car seats in early February as well as a few other purchases for our fitting stations*
- *Submitted press releases to newspapers on holiday travel/winter travel*

Mary distributed "Winter Driving Tips" brochures to Board members and asked that they leave some in their communities/ workplace for people to help themselves to.

TRAFFIC SAFETY GRANT UPDATE

Michele reported:

- *Three police departments applied for Buckle Up Grants this past year, but they were not approved due to past performance measures.*
- *Four out of 5 departments who applied for STEP Grants (Selective Traffic Enforcement Program) were funded. Michele is checking with the state and hoping the 5th department was also funded (hopefully just an oversight).*
- *Provided 191 parent info packets to the DMV*

- *Joined in a contract with the Safe Schools/Healthy Students (SSHS) Initiative to receive a total of \$7,500 to run from 08/2007 – 07/2008. Michele met with representatives from SSHS at Heuvelton Central to discuss potential programs for spring.*
- *Have been providing monthly progress reports on 'Parents Who Host...'; also submitted one newspaper article*
- *Traffic Safety Fatalities--Unofficially there were 20 fatalities in our County in 2007: 3 possible alcohol-related, 3 motorcycle, 1 lost control/ejected, 1 asleep at wheel, 1 speed, 3 inattention/distracted driving, 2 speed/weather/crossed center line, 3 unknown reason why vehicle crossed center line, 1 pedestrian, 1 ejected, 1 bicyclist. To date in 2008, we have 3 fatalities: 2 speed/weather and 1 speed)*

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Undersheriff Scott Bonno reported:

- *Sheriff's Department should soon be getting a 2nd license plate reader*
- *Update was given on the new radio system*
- *There seem to be more DWI arrests in the winter months than summer months*

Roger Folsom asked for advice on how to handle people snowblowing snow across the roads. Ernie Olin stated it is illegal and not to be allowed. He recommended talking to violators and if they persist, he would recommend calling police. Gary Jarvis, Kevin Wells and Scott Bonno agreed.

NEW YORK STATE POLICE

No report given.

NYSDOT

Ernie Olin reported:

- *It's been a very busy winter so far; salt and diesel fuel usage is up as well as miles being put on the trucks.*
- *Working closely with Bill Dashnaw, who contracts 310 lane miles from DOT (most notably Routes 310 and 345 are his responsibility). DOT and County have been coordinating to provide similar levels of service on the roads, and Bill has been very cooperative with this plan.*
- *DOT has entered into an agreement with Roger Folsom, Highway Superintendent, Town of Fine allowing DOT to load their trucks out of his shop on Route 3 to provide better level of service on the west end of Route 3 from Fine to Star Lake. Ernie thanked Roger for his cooperation in this effort.*
- *Made some headway on the new jail entrance to be realigned with Hammond Drive*
- *DOT Safety Meeting scheduled for May 14 at Odd Fellows in Ogdensburg (Ernie would be glad to distribute any available handouts to DOT employees)*
- *Marty Percy, DOT Traffic Engineer in Watertown, would like to attend these meetings. He could speak to specific studies such as the intersection of County Routes 35 and 345, where a fatality occurred last year. He is the supervisor in charge of examining such an intersection.*
- *Village of Canton Reconstruction Project Meeting was held last night (Jan. 22), specifically addressing Jay and Railroad Streets as they relate to the railroad tracks. Fire Chief Dalton also attended to speak to fire protection issues as well.*

Dick McDougall noted that red reflective tape was attached to the stop sign posts at the intersection of Routes 35 and 345 (Burnham's Corners) following the fatal accident that occurred there in March 2007. He added the signs do catch your attention quicker now when approaching the intersection.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

No report given.

STOP-DWI

Michele noted as of December 31, 2007, St. Lawrence County had 554 DWI Arrests and 84 Felony Arrests in 2007. In 2006, there were 512 DWI Arrests and 80 Felony Arrests.

Enforcement

- 4th Quarter Arrest Reports for 2007 by police agencies and T-SLED Arrests as of 11/07 (including the breakdown by agency as of 11/07) were passed out.
- Last Drink Locations listed from Datamasters (Sheriff and Local Police Agencies) for October – December were sent out to all police agencies and DA's Office (this was the first time we've been able to incorporate information from the State Police Draeger units).

Public Information

- Radio spots, TV spot, newspaper articles for New Year's Eve were released
- Class presentations were made at Massena, Parishville-Hopkinton, and Potsdam Schools as well as the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center
- Displays were provided for the St. Lawrence County EAP Fair
- Information/materials provided for NTSI Defensive Driver Instructor, Richville Clinic, Canton Health Class, Massena PD, Canton-Potsdam Hospital, Clarkson University

Administration

- 2008 STOP-DWI Plan was approved by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles
- Two motorists completed our Victim Impact Panel Videos for court compliance
- Attended DWI Conference in Albany November 7-9
- 3rd Quarter Revenue and Expenditure Reports were submitted, and 4th Quarter Report will be completed in March
- Currently working on a recidivism report on DWI for the past 5 years looking for trends
- Continue working on fine collection from the local courts
- Attending Drug Court, which includes several DWI cases

OTHER CONCERNS

Dick McDougall noted that he attended a meeting with the Superintendent at Madrid-Waddington Central. She may be contacting Michele (or Michele could contact her) regarding her interest in holding a mock-DWI crash this spring or at prom time.

Michele has 'Parents Who Host...' handouts for anyone who would like them; also traffic safety data highlights from the website 'SaveNY.com'.

Michele has also completed disability parking info to be sent out to all Village/Town Clerks and to health centers around the county.

Ernie's membership on the Board is up for renewal in June. Ernie would like Marty Percy's name to be considered for membership.

A motion to adjourn today's meeting was made by Dick McDougall, seconded by Allan Peabody. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, April 16, 2008 at 3 p.m. in Canton.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kim Hayes".

Kim Hayes

Recording Secretary

PLEASE NOTE: Since the 2nd Floor Conference Room in the Public Safety Complex is unavailable on April 16, we will change our next meeting date to April 9, 2008.