

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD

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Michele James
Executive Secretary

Gary J. Jarvis
Chairman

MINUTES

July 23, 2008

PRESENT: M. James, M. Davison, G. Jarvis, R. McDougall, Undersheriff S. Bonno, Lt. D. Polniak, W. Dashnaw, R. Folsom, A. Peabody, Renee Barchitta (Guest)

ABSENT: C. Ballard, M. Bogart, Cpt. D. Chauvin, E. Olin

Gary Jarvis, Chair called the meeting to order.

A moment of silence was observed in memory of longtime County Legislator and member of our Traffic Safety Board, Lloyd Moore, who passed away in June.

A motion to approve the Minutes of the April, 2008 meeting was made by Dick McDougall, seconded by Bill Dashnaw.

Introductions were made. Renee Barchitta introduced herself as our Highway Safety Representative from the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee. She is in Canton today meeting with Michele James in their annual grant review and is honored to attend our quarterly meeting this afternoon. Ms. Barchitta expressed her and GTSC's knowledge that we have an incredible team here in St. Lawrence County, of how hard-working and dedicated we are, and how much our efforts are appreciated in Albany. She thanked the Board for welcoming her today and urged members to call her any time with questions or concerns.

TRAFFIC SAFETY ACTIVITIES

Mary reported to the Board:

- Continue to work with Undersheriff Bonno on a possible pilot program with S.T.O.P.P.E.D. and school parking privileges
- Created a comprehensive parent program with funding from OASAS/Safe Schools/Healthy Students including a web banner, website w/'Parents Who Host Lose the Most' materials, etc.; Michele also did an interview w/News10Now regarding the project
- Web viewership report from January-July showed our website has been hit on 1,718 times
- Printed additional posters/cards to get more information to the public
- Plan to purchase a camcorder to use for PSA's, etc. to hopefully post on school websites
- Participated in EAP Fair at Riverview Correctional Facility
- Continue to distribute bike helmets and educate public on bike/pedestrian safety
- Provided information to Jamie Bentley, St. Lawrence County Health Initiative
- Created a Power Point presentation on occupant restraints; also a press release on occupant restraints for County EAP newsletter
- Provided DMV with 150 additional New Driver packets
- Attended two workshops: Women in Trauma & Addiction sponsored by STOP-DWI Foundation/GTSC; also Real Colors sponsored by Probation Department
- Planning a CPS Update Class in September

- Received a letter from Dale Petry, Instructor, Motorcycle Safety Course at SUNY Canton regarding traffic lights that don't trip/change for motorcycles. Mary asked for input from Board members, several of whom spoke about the DOT controlling these lights. Mary will try to report again at the next meeting when she has more information.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Scott Bonno reported their department's liaison with the State, Charles Rutherford, secured some funds for their department to use in focusing on teen functions such as proms, graduations, etc.

Scott also reported that NYSARC has a tractor trailer available that moves from site to site, which is basically a driving simulator where individuals (8 at a time) sit through a video with reactionary driving situations. The Sheriff's Department has used the simulator, and he recommends other agencies use it as well.

NEW YORK STATE POLICE

No report given.

NYS DOT

No report given.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Bill Dashnaw noted that the County Highway Department applied for monies under the 'Transportation Enhancement Program', which would fund widening the roads at a minimum of 4 feet and creating pull-offs for bikers and hikers. The routes applied for were: 1.) Ogdensburg to Morristown to Hammond to Black Lake and back to Ogdensburg, 2.) Ogdensburg to Lisbon and back through Heuvelton and Route 812, and 3.) Clarkson Avenue, Potsdam to County Route 59 to Route 56 and back to Potsdam.

The Highway Department also applied for monies from 'Safe Routes to School' (a much smaller pot of money). Schools located on county roads such as Parishville, Lisbon, and Edwards-Knox were looked at with a need for more permanent visual speed signs through school zones (solar paneled signs that can be programmed, timed, etc.).

Grant award notifications are expected this fall, and construction will take place in 2009.

STOP-DWI

Michele noted as of July 18, we've had 297 DWI Arrests and 53 Felony Arrests in our County. As of July 25, 2007, there were 291 DWI Arrests and 43 Felony Arrests.

Enforcement

- 2nd Quarter Arrest Reports for 2008 by Police Agencies and T-Sled Arrests as of June 2008 were given to members
- 2nd Quarter Last Drink Location Reports will be sent to agencies shortly
- An Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) Program was held at the David Sullivan Law Enforcement Academy this year with 12 participating

Public Information

- Radio spots and one television spot were released regarding 'Parents Who Host...'
- Displays/materials provided for Clarkson University, Safe Schools/Healthy Students
- School presentations were given at Clifton-Fine, Edwards-Knox, and Southwest BOCES

Administration

- Presently working on 2009 Budget and 2nd Quarter Revenue/Expenditure Report for GTSC

- *Two individuals completed Victim Impact Panel Videos for court compliance*
- *Working on DWI and DDP Recidivism Report for the past 7 years to discover trends*
- *Continue to work on fine collection from local courts. Sent DDP mailing to local justices. Visited a couple of courts regarding reporting procedures*
- *Seven mock-DWI crashes took place this spring. Michele made presentations at six of them. One school has expressed interest in holding a mock crash this fall*
- *Michele attends weekly Drug Court, which is hearing several DWI cases*
- *Hosted a training for STOP-DWI Foundation in May on Trauma and Addiction*
- *Attended STOP-DWI Association Mid-Year Meeting. Received DWI/DWAI Conviction Date for 2007. St. Lawrence County ranks 58/62 for Guilty of Original Charge with No Reduction*

TRAFFIC SAFETY GRANT UPDATE

Michele informed the Board:

- *Traffic Safety Fatalities in 2008 – 10 to date (3-speed/weather, 1-alcohol, 1-pulled out in front of oncoming traffic, 2-crossed into opposite lane, 1-snowmobile driver killed by hit and run driver, 1-driver rear-ended pushing car into oncoming traffic, 1-motorcycle failed to negotiate curve)*
- *2007-2008 Grant – Two quarterly claim vouchers and contract sent to GTSC*
- *257 more Parent Packets provided to DMV*
- *Mailed out 2008 winners of 'Save Your Friend's Life Over the Airwaves' to radio stations*
- *Presentations to Driver Education Classes at OFA, Colton-Pierrepont, Gouverneur covering Underage Drinking/Driving and Distracted Driving*
- *Participated with 5 out of 8 schools in Safe Schools/Healthy Students to present mock crashes*
- *Received DVD's to be used in schools for safe driving programs*
- *Michele and Mary presented at St. Lawrence Central School for Red Ribbon Week*
- *OASAS Representative visited us on May 16 to oversee our 'Parents Who Host...' Project and was pleased with our progress; grant ended May 30*
- *Copies of GTSC and NYSATSB Newsletters were given to members*
- *Our application for next year's grant was submitted prior to May 15. Our 402 Grant was submitted for \$89,499. Six police agencies applied for STEP Grants, five for Buckle Up Grants, and two agencies for CPS Grants.*

OTHER CONCERNS

Discussion ensued regarding the following topics:

- *Filling the vacancy left by Lloyd Moore's passing. Board members seemed interested in finding a replacement with experience in the insurance business and/or is a County Legislator.*
- *The rising cost of road salt this past year (from \$38 to \$86 per ton at present) and how this could become a road safety issue when services are reduced.*
- *An article in this morning's paper regarding how many tractor trailer drivers there are on the roadways who are not qualified to be driving due to health conditions, problems with drowsy driving, etc.*
- *Motorcycle run to Old Forge to benefit the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation, which raised over \$100,000.*
- *Safety issues since the bridge on Rt. 345 in Madrid has closed. A real problem exists that law enforcement, fire/rescue personnel, etc. can't reach people in need quickly without additional miles due to the loss of the bridge.*

Reneé Barchitta expressed her sincere appreciation for our staff here in St. Lawrence County and all we do in the name of traffic safety. She encouraged law enforcement agencies to get their numbers up

and to make sure they keep GTSC informed when there are changes in their departments that affect their numbers, i.e. number of working staff down, etc.

A motion to adjourn today's meeting was made by Scott Bonno, seconded by Bill Dashnaw. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, October 15, 2008 at 3 p.m. in Canton.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kim Hayes". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

*Kim Hayes
Recording Secretary*