

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD

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Michele James
Executive Secretary

Gary J. Jarvis
Chairman

MINUTES

April 22, 2009

PRESENT: M. James, M. Davison, R. McDougall, R. Folsom, Undersheriff S. Bonno, A. Peabody, E. Olin, Cpt. D. Chauvin, C. Ballard, W. Dashnaw, Lt. D. Polniak

ABSENT: G. Jarvis, M. Bogart

GUESTS: Ruth Ayen, David Forsythe, NYSP Sgts. Kevin Boyea and Jay Cook, Charlotte Peabody

Dick McDougall, Vice-Chair called the meeting to order and introductions were made. A motion to approve the minutes of the January, 2009 meeting was made by Roger Folsom, seconded by Scott Bonno.

Sgts. Kevin Boyea and Jay Cook, NYSP, members of the State Police Traffic Advancement Team, reported on their TIM Unit. About 100 troopers statewide are involved in this program. Their areas of focus are: 1) managing large traffic incidents, 2) work zone enforcement, and 3) targeted enforcement. The TIM Unit was created last year in response to the need for work zone enforcement.

TRAFFIC SAFETY ACTIVITIES

Mary reported to the Board:

- Quarterly parent newsletter has been distributed to schools and human service agencies (handouts given).
- Information cards have been printed through 'Parents Who Host...' Program targeting prom-related businesses (handouts given).
- Created handouts with current information on underage drinking.
- Provided a page for Morristown Central School's newsletter.
- Canton to receive monies for their 'Safe Routes to School' Program; Mary will be helping to plan a special event in May with the Canton schools.
- Bike helmets have been ordered; more education and distribution being planned for students in elementary schools (Norwood-Norfolk and St. Lawrence Central coming up).
- Provided 300 teen driver packets to local DMV Offices.
- Currently working on PSA's with Clifton-Fine high school students.
- Presented programs at Gingerbread Nursery.
- Operation Safe Stop Week (this week) to educate public about stopping for school buses (a press release was sent to local newspapers); Mary had only one hot spot referral (problem area where drivers persistently pass a stopped school bus).
- Motorcycle Association of NY is no longer the sponsor for motorcycle safety program at SUNY Canton; Mary issued a press release regarding the course given at SUNY Canton and continues to work with them getting their information out to the public.
- Sovie's Cycle Shop and Route 68 Sales & Service have agreed to hand out brochures about DOT-approved helmets and the motorcycle safety course in Canton.
- Distributed over 300 handouts to WIC, Adolescent Pregnancy Program, Traumatic Brain Injury Group, Madrid Rescue, etc.
- Presented a car seat inservice to employees at Dept. of Social Services (15 attendees).

- *Attended health fair at SUNY Canton and Morristown Wellness Fair as well as an educational seminar presented by Michael Nurney about alcohol and the teenage brain.*

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Undersheriff Bonno noted:

- *The Sheriff's Department will be applying for the Selective Traffic Enforcement Program grant to target speed and aggressive driving.*
- *Deputy Devin Thomas has completed the first phase of Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) training. Officer Clint Perrigo, Potsdam PD, also attended this training.*
- *The speed wagon has been located on the Potsdam-Morley Road and also the Judson Street Road.*

NEW YORK STATE POLICE

Captain Chauvin reported:

- *State Police have been working on selective traffic enforcement as well as the TIM detail.*
- *Continue to conduct DWI sobriety and saturation patrols.*
- *School Resource Officers will be working on prom efforts in their respective school districts.*
- *Trooper Roger Riutta has also completed the first phase of DRE training.*

NYSDOT

Ernie informed Board members:

- *NYS DOT Commissioner Astrid Glynn will be stepping down as of May 8th; Executive Deputy Commissioner Stan Gee will serve as Acting Commissioner.*
- *DOT is transitioning to their summer work program; shift work ended in April.*
- *New brochure on work zone safety has been distributed.*
- *Public hearing on the Route 11 through Village of Canton Project will be held Tuesday, May 12 at the Hugh C. Williams High School Auditorium (informational meeting from 4-6 p.m. and public hearing from 7-9 p.m.).*
- *Spring safety training will be held May 13 at the Oddfellows Hall in Ogdensburg.*
- *Stimulus funds should double the amount of projects to be undertaken.*
- *DOT has renegotiated salt contracts for the upcoming year.*
- *Continue working with Lowes to get them open for business in Potsdam.*

COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Bill Dashnaw reported:

- *The department is transitioning to summer and holding seasonal trainings.*
- *The Morley Bridge (CR 27) is in the final design stage.*
- *CR 55 is under construction.*
- *CR's 49 and 39 will have work done to them this summer; the East DeKalb Road will be done only if funding becomes available.*

STOP-DWI

Michele noted as of 04/21/09, we've had 209 DWI Arrests and 29 Felony Arrests in St. Lawrence County. As of 04/03/08, there were 149 DWI Arrests and 26 Felony Arrests.

From our DWI Arrest Report through April 5, 2009, of 201 arrests, 19 were under 21 (9.45%), 9 were over the age of 60 (4.47%), 47 were arrested for Aggravated DWI (BAC .18 and above) (23.38%). Highest BAC was .27. Two persons have been arrested twice this year for two separate drunk driving incidents each. 15.42% had one prior offense, 8.95% had two prior offenses, 1.49% had three prior offenses, .995% had four prior offenses in St. Lawrence County since 1993.

Enforcement

- *1st Quarter Arrest Reports for 2009 by Police Agencies and T-SLED Arrests as of March, 2009 given to Board members.*
- *David Sullivan Law Enforcement Academy hosted Standardized Field Sobriety Testing in March (16 from the Academy and 1 officer from Malone PD participated).*
- *Trooper Roger Riutta, Sheriff's Deputy Devin Thomas and Office Clint Perrigo of the Potsdam PD were recently trained as Drug Recognition Experts.*
- *Michele presented a class on Intoxication for the Law Enforcement Academy on March 15.*

Public Information

- *Michele gave an interview to WWNY regarding two presumed alcohol-related fatalities in March.*
- *Provided displays/health fair materials for Clarkson University (3 days), Colton Winterfest, Clifton-Fine Winterfest, Potsdam High School Red Ribbon Week (2 days), SUNY Potsdam, Seaway Prevention Council, and Ogdensburg Pre-Expo Health Fair.*
- *Two Mock DWI Crashes are planned for this spring: Colton-Pierrepont Central, May 14/15 @ 1 p.m. and Clifton-Fine Central, May 28/29 @ 1 p.m.*

Administration

- *The 2009 STOP-DWI Plan was approved.*
- *4th Quarter Revenue/Expenditure Report was sent to Albany.*
- *Continue working on a recidivism report on DWI and DDP looking for trends over the past 15 years.*
- *Lists of outstanding cases have been faxed/mailed to appropriate courts.*
- *Met with County Court Judges and Probation to discuss DWI fine collection.*
- *Currently using video conferencing for Drug Court, which is hearing several DWI cases.*
- *Hosted on behalf of the NYS STOP-DWI Foundation 'The Unique Challenge of Treating the Chronic Drinking Driver' training (52 attendees).*
- *Continue to serve on GTSC's Task Force on Impaired Driving for Assessment, Evaluation and Treatment.*

TRAFFIC SAFETY GRANT UPDATE

Michele informed the Board:

- *To date, we've had 4 fatalities in our county in 2009: 2 – failure to keep right/slippery pavement, 2 – alcohol/speed, and 1 – alcohol/failure to keep right.*
- *Traffic Safety Contracts for our 2008-2009 grant, mid-year traffic safety and CPS grant reports as well as our 1st quarter voucher were sent to Albany. Kim is presently working on the 2nd quarter voucher.*
- *494 parent packets have been provided to the DMV.*
- *'Parents Who Host Lose the Most' materials were mailed/delivered to all 18 school districts in January. Two PWH banners were given to Clifton-Fine Central.*
- *Prom and teen driver information was mailed to St. Lawrence Central.*
- *2009 Prom Schedule was sent out to all police agencies.*
- *Current traffic safety statistics for St. Lawrence County are available at www.safeny.com.*
- *Applications for 2009-2010 Highway Safety, CPS, Buckle Up New York (BUNY), and Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) Grants are available on-line. The address is www.safeny.com, click on Egrants. Only endorsement pages need to be sent to the Traffic Safety Board. We have currently received STEP and BUNY Grants endorsement pages from Potsdam and Norwood PD's.*

OTHER CONCERNS

Allan Peabody noted that the North Country Retreads Motorcycle Group will be having a get-together on his property in Clare over Memorial Day Weekend.

David Forsythe inquired about the Traffic Safety Program's involvement with insurance companies; he was informed that Mary plans to meet with insurance company representatives in the near future.

A motion to adjourn today's meeting was made by Allan Peabody, seconded by Dave Polniak. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for July 22, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. in Canton.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Kim Hayes
Recording Secretary*