

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD

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Michele James
Executive Secretary

Gary J. Jarvis
Chairman

MINUTES **October 21, 2009**

PRESENT: M. James, M. Davison, R. McDougall, Sheriff K. Wells, Lt. D. Polniak, E. Olin, A. Peabody

ABSENT: G. Jarvis, M. Bogart, C. Ballard, Cpt. D. Chauvin, D. Forsythe, W. Dashnaw, R. Folsom

Dick McDougall, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order. A correction was made in the minutes of the July, 2009 meeting under Mike Bogart's report of the safety workshop held at the Town Barn in Morristown, rather than Oswegatchie as incorrectly stated. The minutes were then approved with motions by Lt. Polniak and Sheriff Wells.

TRAFFIC SAFETY ACTIVITIES

Mary reported:

- Including new changes in laws in our newsletters, handouts, and programs regarding bikes/rear lights, teen driving/ texting, booster seat usage
- Published articles/press releases for: Traffic Safety Newsletter (Fall 2009), Cooperative Extension Newsletter, Teen Driver Safety Week, International Walk to School Day, Distractions and Aggressive Driving, and Back to School for local newspapers
- Provided handouts on bike/pedestrian safety to parents of K-3 children at Canton and St. Mary's School, the Canton Summer Rec Program, and SUNY Potsdam
- Provided CPS handouts to WIC, APP, NCPPC, Edwards-Knox Open House, Head Start; planning in-service with Head Start's transportation dept.
- Provided posters to Edwards-Knox school nurse (teen driving/Parents Who Host)
- Purchased key tags w/new driver website information, distributing 210 to students, 310 in teen driver packets, and some to County Clerk's staff
- Attended County Fair (8/5/09) to provide information to youth and parents (demonstrated Drunk Goggles); distributed information regarding Motorcycle Safety at County Fair and brochures/bumper stickers to Route 68 Auto Sales; gave presentation to 60 Ogdensburg Driver's Ed students
- Attended dinner meeting (8/19/09) of North Country Insurance Professionals providing information about our programs and a summary of current distracted driving research
- Coordinated bike helmet program w/Mrs. White at Parishville-Hopkinton Central School, distributing 51 helmets; attended webinars (9/22/09) on Teaching Cycling Skills to Children and on Creating Walking School Bus hosted by the NYS Safe Routes to School Program
- Mary attended CPS Conference (9/9-11/09) in Lancaster, PA w/three other techs from our grant and others from NYSP and Gouverneur Rescue Squad; assisted at a Car Seat Check in Massena (09/16/09); discussing a possible car seat training in August tentatively at the Massena Rescue Squad Building
- Mary and Michele attended the 2009 NY Highway Safety Conference in Saratoga Springs, NY (10/18-20/09)

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Sheriff Wells informed the Board:

- *Sheriff's Department is still dealing with budget issues; original budget proposal calls for the elimination of 1 road patrol position (currently there is a vacancy that would not be filled) and 1 position at the correctional facility (there is an upcoming retirement that would not be filled)*
- *One deputy has left the department and taken a job with the court system*
- *7 replacement vehicles have been requested, possibly 5 will be approved as were last year; maintenance costs for vehicles are far greater than the cost of new vehicles*

NEW YORK STATE POLICE

No report given.

NYSDOT

Ernie reported:

- *DOT just finished their last paving job of the year (Rt. 68 from Pierrepont to Colton)*
- *Scheduled to start shift work on 11/12/09; have hired 10 temporary employees*
- *Madrid Bridge set to open by the end of November*
- *A temporary one-way structure has been set up for the Heuvelton Bridge Project*
- *Office of Attorney General arrived on 10/13/09 to do an accident reconstruction at Burnham's Corners (CR 35 & SH 845); fatality occurred there in 2007 and a lawsuit has been filed against the state*
- *Ernie has been asked to serve on a Deer Management Task Force for 6A*
- *DOT held their rescheduled safety meeting in Ogdensburg on 10/16, which went well*
- *Assisted with constructing a new railroad crossing on Rt. 56 north of Village of Potsdam; also detoured traffic around Pine Street in Potsdam for water main work*
- *Ernie attended LEPC (Local Emergency Planning Committee) Meeting held 10/6/09 at the Canton Fire Department*

COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

No report given.

TRAFFIC SAFETY GRANT UPDATE

Michele reported:

- *Michele met with Reneé Barchitta for annual program review in August; End of Year Reports for the 402 and CPS Grants were mailed to the state on 10/8/09; 3rd Qtr. State Aid Claim has been submitted for reimbursement, and Kim is working on 4th and final quarter voucher*
- *376 Parent Packets have been delivered to the DMV*
- *Michele passed out statistical report on deer/motor vehicle crashes 2002-2007*
- *Our 402 and CPS Grant Applications for 2009-2010 are currently being reviewed by GTSC*

STOP-DWI

Michele informed the Board:

- *We've had 523 DWI and 90 Felony Arrests in our county as of 10/20/09; as of 10/15 last year, we had 442 DWI and 74 Felony Arrests*
- *DWI Arrest Report through 09/20/09 was passed out; out of 533 arrests, 50 were under age 21, 18 were over the age of 60, 138 were arrested for Aggravated DWI (BAC .18 and above), and 10 were arrested for two separate offenses this year*

Enforcement

- *Third Quarter Arrest Reports for 2009 by Police Agencies and T-SLED Arrests as of 9/09 were passed out*

Public Information

- *Provided displays/health fair materials for: County Fair, Clarkson University, St. Lawrence Central SADD Chapter*
- *Made presentations to: Gouverneur, Hammond, Colton-Pierrepoint Driver Ed Class*
- *Promoted advertisements: Boating DWI Posters given out; Pennysaver's Back to School issue*
- *Sent press release to local newspapers announcing our three new Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) Officers: Trooper Roger Riutta, Deputy Devin Thomas, and Potsdam Police Officer Clint Perrigo*

Administration

- *Original budget proposal eliminates 1 DWI Probation Officer and 2 Sheriff's Deputies*
- *2010 STOP-DWI Plan is in progress*
- *2009 mid-year financial report was submitted to Albany*
- *Working on a recidivism report on DWI and DDP for past 17 years looking for trends*
- *Faxed/mailed lists to courts who have outstanding cases for both fines not collected and dispositions*
- *One person completed VIP for court requirement; had two no-show responses*
- *Hosted STOP-DWI Association Regional Meeting in September*
- *STOP-DWI Revenues are up slightly compared to last year at this time*

OTHER CONCERNS

- *David Forsythe was officially appointed to our Traffic Safety Board on 8/3/09*
- *As of May 2009, the DMV will allow Defensive Driving Courses to be taken online (deduction of points from licenses and discounts on insurance given)*
- *Michele attended a program at the Annual Highway Safety Conference presented by the Franklin County Traffic Safety Board, which consists of 21 members; she has been invited to attend their meeting next week in Malone. Emmett McDevitt from the Federal Highway Administration will be a guest speaker.*

A motion to adjourn today's meeting was made by Allan Peabody, seconded by Sheriff Wells. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 20, 2010 at 3:00 p.m. in Canton.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Kim Hayes
Recording Secretary*