

# **ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD**

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**Michele James**  
Executive Secretary

**Gary J. Jarvis**  
Chairman

## **MINUTES** *July 22, 2009*

**PRESENT:** M. James, M. Davison, G. Jarvis, R. McDougall, Lt. D. Polniak, M. Bogart, C. Ballard, E. Olin, A. Peabody

**ABSENT:** Cpt. D. Chauvin, W. Dashnaw, R. Folsom, Sheriff K. Wells, Undersheriff S. Bonno

**GUESTS:** David Forsythe, Charlotte Peabody

Gary Jarvis, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the Minutes of the April, 2009 meeting were approved.

### **TRAFFIC SAFETY ACTIVITIES**

*Mary reported:*

- *continue with prom/graduation initiative; sent information packet to Chief Timmy Currier, Massena PD, regarding underage drinking, impaired driving, safe party hosting for posting on their website and/or use in local outreach; created 1-page info sheet on parental party hosting requested by Madrid-Waddington School personnel for district mailing to parents*
- *distributed 425 'Parents Who Host Lose the Most' info cards to prom dress/tuxedo rental shops throughout the county*
- *assisted teen SADD members at Clifton-Fine School with recordings of several PSA's concerning parental hosting of underage drinking parties and teen driving to be aired on local radio stations*
- *continue to work with 'Safe Routes to School' group at Canton School; planned a 'walk/bike to school' event for June 2; created a summary of pedestrian/bike laws requested by their superintendent for their district newsletter*
- *published our year-end Traffic Safety Newsletter; sent it to all area schools and the Human Services list server (handouts provided to Board)*
- *followed up with North Country Insurance professionals; planning to present at their August meeting*
- *continue to distribute bike helmets, recently at St. Lawrence Central and Norwood-Norfolk Schools, and trained volunteers to assist with helmet fitting; also followed up with SRO Jim Lavelle and may do more distribution at Parishville School*
- *provided resources to Danielle Bartow, Physical Education Instructor at Potsdam School (NYS laws, bike rodeos, proper helmet use, visibility, loaned videos, etc.)*
- *provided 75 bike safety handouts/stickers to Canton Recreation Program*
- *provided Canton DMV with 75 new driver packets, which we eventually plan to abolish due to volume of brochures needed; planning to hand out key tags to new drivers with New York's new website address printed on them, which includes links to the same information included in the packets*
- *sent informational letters to driver education teachers offering them use of our resources and informing them of our availability to give presentations to their classes*
- *provided 50 pedestrian brochures and copy templates for winter driving and child restraint brochures to SUNY Potsdam University Police*

- *delivered 50 motorcycle safety brochures and information about motorcycle safety course to Sovie's Cycle Shop on Route 11; provided a display for the sign-up table at Ogdensburg's Chamber of Commerce's Poker Run on drinking and riding and non-compliant helmets; obtained handouts from SUNY Canton on their SafeRider Course to distribute at fairs, etc.; submitted a press release to local media regarding the change of Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month from May to June*
- *Mary served as an Instructor for the Standardized CPS Technician Training Course June 1-2 in Watertown (at least 4 troopers and 2 firemen from our county were trained); held a child safety seat check at the Massena Fire Dept. on June 10; Mary, Maureen Benedict, Seaway Valley Ambulance, and Officer John Holmes, Massena PD will attend the annual CPS Conference in Lancaster, PA in September*
- *Mary attended a webinar on teen driving and a presentation given by Teddy Parsons at Hermon-DeKalb School*
- *WWNY-TV7 in Watertown has received a traffic safety award from GTSC after being nominated by the Watertown PD for several PSA's they aired during prom/graduation season geared toward alcohol use and safe driving in effort to reduce alcohol-related incidents*

### **SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**

*No report given.*

### **NEW YORK STATE POLICE**

*No report given.*

### **NYSDOT**

*Ernie informed the Board:*

- *DOT put out a radar speed trailer on Route 37 near the Lee Road; this is a regional piece of equipment, not always in St. Lawrence County, but Ernie can request it for use here from time to time*
- *DOT was involved with the border closure; they had three light plants and three variable message signs that had to be kept running and fueled during that time*
- *continue to work on bridge jobs in Madrid and Heuvelton; culvert jobs are underway on Route 72 east of Parishville and on Route 184; began vendor paving having just finished Route 310 from Madrid to Raymondville, did Pope Mills to Edwardsville and also Route 131 with chip seal; will be paving Pierrepont Ave. in Potsdam and Route 3 from Piercefield to the Franklin County line*
- *still working with Lowe's in Potsdam to complete the roadwork on Route 56*
- *safety meeting planned for May has been cancelled due to budgetary restraints*
- *Carey Babyak, Regional Director, is retiring in August*

*Michele inquired about the road salt prices; Ernie explained that their vendor lowered the price on last year's contract so the DOT could fill its barns, but he's not sure what will happen with the new contract. Mike Bogart noted that a highway superintendent from Franklin County told him yesterday that their price is \$72/ton this year, down from \$97/ton last year, so hopefully it will decrease some.*

*Mike reported:*

- *safety workshop was held yesterday at the Town Barn in Oswegatchie, and all of Morristown's employees attended; put on by county employee, Scott Bennett, dealing with violence in the workplace*
- *most towns now doing a lot of paving when weather permits*
- *safety in work zones seems to be improving with more education getting out to the public*
- *the next St. Lawrence County Highway Association meeting will be held at McCarthy's Restaurant in Canton on August 13 at 9 a.m. (breakfast followed by a short meeting); Mike invited any interested Board members to attend*

## **COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

*No report given.*

### **STOP-DWI**

*Michele noted as of 07/15/09, we've had 342 DWI Arrests and 55 Felony Arrests in St. Lawrence County. As of 07/18/08, there were 297 DWI Arrests and 53 Felony Arrests.*

*From our DWI Arrest Report through June 15, 2009, of 382 arrests, 36 were under 21 (9.42%), 11 were over the age of 60 (2.87%), 98 were arrested for Aggravated DWI (BAC .18 and above) (25.65%). Highest BAC was .33. Six persons have been arrested twice this year for two separate drunk/drugged driving incidents each. (Within the last 17 years, 17.8% had one prior offense, 7.32% had two prior offenses, 3.14% had three prior offenses, .523% had four prior offenses in St. Lawrence County since 1992.*

*Michele met with Chief Timmy Currier, Massena PD; an open meeting was held with bar owners based on our Last Drink Report. Bar owners were given information about people who claimed they had frequented a bar before they were arrested for DWI. We would like to offer TIPS training for bar owners, bartenders and waitresses to keep an eye out for drinkers who are overindulging, already intoxicated when they arrive, etc., so they can help to reduce the number of further arrests.*

### **Enforcement**

- *2nd Quarter Arrest Reports for 2009 by Police Agencies and T-SLED Arrests as of June, 2009 were given to Board members*

### **Public Information**

- *provided displays/health fair materials to Clarkson University, SUNY Potsdam; Salmon River School requested permission to use our Driver Agreement*
- *did presentations at Gouverneur BOCES w/NYSP, Clifton-Fine health classes, Massena Central health classes, OFA driver education class*
- *program advertisements in Fourth Coast Entertainment*
- *DWI Mock Crash was held at Colton-Pierrepont School; Mock Crash at Clifton-Fine School cancelled due to weather*
- *provided an ID verifier for one business*

### **Administration**

- *the 2009 STOP-DWI mid-year report is in progress*
- *continue working on a recidivism report on DWI and DDP looking for trends over the past 17 years*
- *lists faxed/mailed to courts that have outstanding cases for both fines not collected and dispositions*
- *one person completed VIP for court requirement for Dutchess County*
- *STOP-DWI revenues are up slightly from last year at this same time*
- *currently using video conferencing for Drug Court hearing several DWI cases*

## **TRAFFIC SAFETY GRANT UPDATE**

*Michele reported:*

- *our 2009-2010 402 and CPS Grants are currently being received; STEP and BUNY Grants endorsement pages have been signed and sent into the state*
- *our 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter claim voucher for 2008-2009 Grants have been submitted to the state; Kim is currently working on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter claim*
- *269 parent packets have been provided to the DMV*
- *to date, we've had 6 fatalities in our county in 2009: 2 – failure to keep right/slippery pavement, 1 – alcohol/speed, and 1 – alcohol/failure to keep right, 1 – failure to keep right, 1 – car/pedestrian*

**OTHER CONCERNS**

*Dick McDougall heard a statistic on the news that after dark, every 1 out of 6 drivers you meet on the road are under the influence of alcohol, drugs, etc.*

*Allan attended again this year the bike rally in support of the Pediatric Brain Injury Foundation in Old Forge; 600 bikes and 800 people attended to raise money for these children.*

*Ernie received a phone call from Charlotte Ramsey, Mayor of Canton, regarding their shared service grant. Approval of the 1<sup>st</sup> phase has been received; it looks like DOT will be sharing a salt shed and fuel island with the Village and Town of Canton.*

*Mike noted that over 600 highway superintendents throughout the state attended highway school in Ithaca June 1-3; good attendance from St. Lawrence County (19).*

*A motion to adjourn today's meeting was made by Dick McDougall, seconded by Lt. Polniak. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 21, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. in Canton.*

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Kim Hayes  
Recording Secretary*