

## **Highway Safety Committee meeting**

October 8, 2013 15:00 to 15:55 hours

Hampton Falls Safety Complex

3 Drinkwater Road

**Members present:** Chief Jay M. Lord – HFFD  
Chief Robbie Dirsa - HFPD  
Robert Regan  
Laurance Anderson Jr  
Dick Robinson  
Andrew Christie

**Old Business** – none

### **New Business**

#### **Situation 1:**

Hampton Falls Board of Selectmen (BOS) sent the following request from their October 2, 2013 meeting via email from L. Ruest: >**Posting safety weight limit signs** for large trucks traveling on roads such as Brown Rd, Drinkwater Rd and Goodwin Rd – the old horse cart roads. The BOS agreed to consult w/ HSC who can address the State Statues and determine where the signs should be placed.

#### **Recommendation:**

HSC reviewed NH RSA 41:11 **Regulation of Use of Highways, Etc.** (in part)...the selectmen may regulate the use of all public highways... and RSA 231:191 **Maximum Weight Limits of Class IV, V and VI Roads** – I. The governing body of a municipality may establish maximum weight limits, seasonal or otherwise, ...when the highway agent determines that such highway requires posting to prevent unreasonable damage or extraordinary municipal maintenance expense. Such posting shall be in accordance with currently acceptable practices and technology. II. Maximum weight limits shall be posted.....at all entrances to the restricted highway or portion of such highway from other public highways. Such signage shall be legible, posted in a conspicuous location, and be of weather resistant materials.

The HSC members agreed with Chief Dirsa's recommendation to install the signs with wording of "Gross Vehicle Weight" or "No Thu Trucking" so HFPD could more easily enforce the ordinance.

As to location – defer to Road Agent D. Robinson for exact locations.

#### **Situation 2:**

After a fatal accident in front of their house on August 18, 2013 Mr. and Mrs. Pineo of Stard Rd in Seabrook had communicated (phone calls and emails) with various members of town government at various times. At the October 2, 2013 BOS meeting the Pineo's were present

and raised numerous issues. A request was sent (as well as BOS minutes) from that meeting to HSC to address the concerns.

**Recommendation:**

**\*\*The following recommendations are items from the minutes of the BOS meeting\*\***

\* Brush in road – there is no evidence to support this - photos taken by J. Lord on October 4, 2013 show the road side is sufficiently cut back and no brush piles are evident. In fact at the town line (HF and Seabrook) the only HF resident actually has maintained the corner of the road very well to provide even better 'line of sight'.

\* Road markings (speed limit sign) - the road is posted at 30 mph, the HSC feels the speed limit is sufficient due to the VERY rural nature of the road (only one house on the road and vehicles would have to slow down prior to it to make the turn) and is not recommending any reduction in speed to 25.

\* Road markings (signs) – two or three chevron signs on the southeast corner (going toward Seabrook) prior to the town line would be helpful to indicate to drivers that they are going into a 90 degree corner.

\* Road marking (blind drive) – not recommended (see \*Brush in road)

\* Road markings (lines) – repaint the lines on Stard Road when all the other striping in town is scheduled to be done as the center yellow line has faded.

\* Additional police presence – Now that the district court is located in Seabrook and Stard Rd is the quickest way to get there (due to construction on Rt 1 and Rt 107) the police presence has already increased not only from HF PD but Hampton PD, and No. Hampton PD as well. With only one house in the section of the HF section of the road it is felt that the use of police resources are more beneficial in other locations in town. HF PD will respond to any call service as requested and necessary.

The HSC discussed the increased commercial growth in Seabrook on Stard Rd and overall the HSC feels that the visibility and signage (with some minor additions) is sufficient. We are aware of the dumping on the road (due to the rural nature) and the road has now become a thru way to avoid Rt 1 and Rt 107 due to construction. The addition of signage would not be beneficial because no matter how many signs are installed it will NEVER change the driving behavior habits of the individual.

Final Minutes submitted by Chairman Lord 10-10-2013