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Uxbridge  
Town Clerk

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
275 Douglas Street  
UXBRIDGE, MA 01569

**MEETING MINUTES**

MEETING DATE: October 2, 2014  
MEETING LOCATION: Uxbridge Police Department

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 9:40 A.M.**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jeffrey Lourie	Uxbridge Police Department
Bill Kessler	Uxbridge Fire Department
Peter Emerick	Uxbridge Police Department
Benn Sherman	Uxbridge Department of Public Works
David Genereux	Uxbridge Town Manager

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Jeanne Daley	Recording secretary PSC
Tom Bellacqua	1 <sup>st</sup> Holiday Night Committee
Holly Gallerani	1 <sup>st</sup> Holiday Night Committee
Mark Donahue	Uxbridge H.S.
Steve Berube	Uxbridge Resident
Sgt. Timothy Burke	Uxbridge Police Dept.

**Meeting called to order at 9:30**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**#4. 1<sup>ST</sup> Holiday Night**

First Holiday Night will be held on Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>. Everything is the same. First Holiday Night Committee would like to propose that that Court St. is closed the entire length from 8am to 10pm.

Rivulet St. from Guertin Ave to W Hartford Ave. from 3:30 to 6 pm for parade line up and staging area.

North Main St. from Hazel St. to Mendon St. from 4:30 pm until parade passes through and traffic passes.

Peter Emerick said everything went smooth, pedestrian drop off was good very easy traffic control. Bill Kessler said fire trucks started a little too early and should wait a couple of minutes.

Jeffrey Lourie asked Tim Burke if he could get CEMLEC motorcycles to attend. Also some of those sirens were very loud. Bill Kessler will ask them to stay off the air sirens.

They will also ask them to not throw anything from the fire trucks.

Bill Kessler will send a letter out and cover the sirens and throwing of candy.

**\*\*\*\* Bill Kessler made a motion to approve the plans for the 1<sup>st</sup> Holiday Night to be held on Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup> seconded by Jeffrey Lourie. Motion carried 5-0-0**

Bon Fire – they had it but now on hold. They are looking to have it on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. The student council also was planning on having a bonfire the Tuesday before Thanksgiving so the 1<sup>st</sup> Holiday Night Committee will hold off until they find out what the student council is planning for theirs. Bill Kessler informed everyone that the town could only have one bonfire event per year. Bill Kessler will reach out to the school for their plans and get back to Tom Bellacqua. Tom thinks they should combine the event. Student Council was planning for the 25<sup>th</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> Holiday Night is planning on September 29<sup>th</sup>.

## **#2. Bicycle Safety**

Due to the most recent tragic accidents involving kids Steve Berube reached out to the Chief Lourie about putting together a bicycle safety program. Steve did research and from 1986 to 1995 on average 11 people died in Massachusetts from bike accidents involving a motor vehicle and over a thousand a year are injured.

Thought it was a good time to reach out to the Police Department and talk about getting proactive and increasing bike safety by making the public aware of bike safety, the increase of helmet use and involving parents and schools. It needs to be ongoing and long term and needs to be part of the community culture.

The one safety issue he has from riding bikes is storm drains in the wrong direction.

Storm drains running parallel to the curb are extremely dangerous. Benn Sherman said the parallel bars on storm drains are running in the correct direction.

In regards to Safety Steve Berube said there is an enforcement component, an education component and a follow up component. He spoke about riding on the wrong side of the road and the dangers of riding on sidewalks. Children under 16 should wear helmets and Chief Lourie said he is not aware of any fines or laws in place for a child not wearing a helmet.

Jeffrey Lourie asked if Steve Berube knew of any organizations that were offering training for bicycle safety and Steve Berube said MA Bikes and the Kiwanis offer a very good course. Kiwanis recently held one in Douglas. He said getting the helmets into their hands is very important. Peter Emerick said over the last 5 years we have gone through 500 helmets. He said Officer Morrissette was trained in Bike Safety at one time and James Barth was also trained. The department was active when they had a bike unit and this was funded by a grant. School Resource Officer Dan Deveau gives out helmets to students who are not wearing one. This has been an ongoing effort with the Uxbridge Police Department.

Jeffrey Lourie would like to set up a community initiating effort. He suggests picking a date and setting up a community effort and reaching out to Northbridge and talking with Chief Warchol. Bill Kessler suggested that the police think about going into the schools and doing a bike program along the same line as the fire department does with fire safety. Steve Berube said that May is Bicycle Safety month and the high school does a program with Bikes in Physical Education classes.

## **#3. Entrance/Exit switch for major events at Uxbridge High School, Quaker Hwy**

Sergeant Burke talked to the members about concerns with single major events held at the High School that required a lot of heavy pedestrian and motor vehicle traffic in a

short period of time. The best example is a football game which draws the opposing team and home team to have lots of people there. The problem is the driveway at the school allows for a lot of cars to be in the driveway and off the street but the backup ends up on the Quaker Hwy. Cars going South bound have the left lane turn lane once that is backed up they are in the actual travel lane and people who want to get by tend not to slow down and there is a huge potential for a major incident on Quaker Hwy involving the school and town related event. When you get down into the area there is not a lot of room to control the swell of the crowd. However, by having the flow of traffic empty into the parking area and this also helps get people through the ticketing area. To help with this, one of the things they are looking for is to swap the exit and entrance for a brief amount of time on the day of the event only from an hour before the event starts to about an hour after the event.

Mark Donahue said last year was the first year with the field and it was not a good set up and he had a safety concern all along with people driving in and people standing along the driveway. He said after the first game this year he thought it would be a good idea to drop the cars right into the parking area. It is unmanageable the way it is set up right now and needs to be changed. Peter Emerick and David Genereux spoke about the change in traffic pattern which may be difficult to change for some motorists. Peter Emerick would like to gather more information on this and look at it before he weighs in.

**\*\*\*\*\* Motion made by Bill Kessler seconded by David Genereux to authorize the Police Chief to act on behalf of the Public Safety Committee to work with the schools to address the traffic issues at the school during school events. Motion carried 5-0-0**

#### **#1. Old Millville Rd., Proposed Culvert Replacement Project.**

It's a state highway, jurisdictional road and they will be replacing the culvert at the Southern end where it connects back into Millville Road. They want to shut down Millville Rd during this time. They don't have a schedule yet and I told them I would bring it to the committee. There is no duration yet for this project. They are looking at a month or less. Peter Emerick suggest they close the road before the railroad bridge because it would be wide enough for fire trucks there. Benn will relate this to them.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### **#2. Discuss Route 122 at Hannaford's Plaza – Reply from DOT**

There was another complaint that Jeffrey Lourie wanted to bring forth and that is the area across from Hannaford's. They did cut back the shrubs but they did not cut back enough. Doug said there is nothing specific for line of site. He said it would be more powerful if the police department sent a letter. He could send one but it would not be as powerful. Jeffrey Lourie asked if the Public Safety Committee could send one. Peter Emerick said that in the past we did studies that took all of 30 minutes, Chief Lourie asked Peter to have Sgt. Brown do a study.

Bill Kessler did have a conversation with Tom Emerick to see if they could move the fog line off the sidewalk would be to eliminate the turn lanes. We also discussed the hedges and Tom talked about the lay out. Bill Kessler asked if they could force them to take them down but Tom said it is not in their jurisdiction.

Benn said he talked with the engineers and they said that there are two things going on; They were ready to submit 75% and they could get a traffic count in 1 week and get traffic count and accident reports. They could make it a four way signal light at Homeward Ave but Hannaford's would lose a lot of the parking lot. They would have to reconfigure the whole parking. Does the Public Safety Committee want me to ask them to do a traffic study? Are there accident clusters there?  
Benn to do a road safety audit.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**#5. Linwood at E. Hartford Ave.**

Benn would like to get it painted but wants to fix the intersection. He wants to get rid of the left turn off of Linwood. He wants to stripe it with thermo paint and he wants to get it formalized by the end of next week and get it to the Board of Selectmen. That is an intersection that needs work and he wants to channel it through pavement writing.

**#1. Approve minutes.**

**\*\*\*\*\* Motion made by Jeffrey Lourie seconded by Bill Kessler to accept the August 7<sup>th</sup> Public Safety Committee minutes. Motion carried 5-0-0**

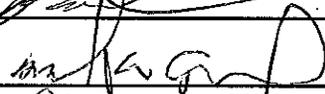
**\*\*\*\*\* Motion by Jeff Lourie seconded by Bill Kessler to adjourn the meeting at 10:35 am. Motion carried 5-0-0**

UXBRIDGE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

MINUTES ACCEPTED

December 4, 2014

MEMBERS:

  
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