

September 04, 2014 Public Safety Committee Meeting  
New Gloucester Meeting House

**Members in Attendance:**

Paul First, Town Manager  
John Randall, Chairman  
David Lunt, Vice-Chairman  
Rep. Ellie Espling  
Nat Berry, Selectman's Liaison  
Frank Chambers, Secretary

7:00pm - Meeting called to order by John Randall, Chairman

- Meeting was held at the New Gloucester Meeting House. The meeting was televised.
- Paul would like to have more open communication with the safety committee.
- John mentioned that the committee tried having meetings during the morning every 3 months.
- There was a discussion on address numbering.
  
- Paul talked about the intersection of Intervale Road & Route 100 – it's not a simple fix.
- Project could begin in 2015 and will take 2 months
- 7% Grade
- Could cut the hill but you will only gain 47 feet of sight distance with a one foot cut.
- 200 feet from old Intervale Road location
- Turning Lanes for Bald Hill Road and Intervale Road (left and right)
- Thermal Plastic Arrows (last approx. 5 years)
- The project is estimated at \$800,000.00.
  
- Nat talked about Morse Road speed limit of 45mph and lowering it to 35mph.
  
- The Upper Village Plan: curbing, striping, catch basin, drainage, etc.
- The New Gloucester Public Safety Committee will be notified of future upper village intersection meetings.
  
- Will Johnston is the new Town Planner.
  
- Nat mentioned that school buses are having a difficult time making a right hand turn onto Intervale Road from Route 100. Perhaps the buses can turn around further down on route 100 or go down Peacock Hill Road and make a left down near the post office and back down to Intervale Road. Changes need to be brought with MSAD15.
  
- Frank mentioned the no parking signs should be installed along Intervale Road at Memorial School Zone. Trees need to be trimmed back along Intervale Road between Memorial School and Route 100 for improved sight distance for school bus drivers looking north.
  
- Frank passed out a memo from Fred Hirsch regarding railroad exempt signs.

From: Fred Hirsch,  
Sent: Friday, July 12, 2013 7:52 AM  
To  
Subject: exempt. no train horn. blue sign

At *our* meeting today, it was requested that there be some clarification on three of the slides or visuals you may use so we are all on the same page.

Exempt – This sign at a crossing does not mean the tracks are necessarily out of service. It means the railroad, not the driver is responsible for safely crossing the tracks. This would mean either a railroad employee on the train would have to get off, or another railroad employee present would have to flag the crossing. However, in Maine school buses MUST stop at exempt crossings. Trucks, especially with hazardous cargo, would have to abide by what their company policy is.

No train horn – Some communities have opted to restrict a train from blowing its horn at crossings. The Federal Railroad Administration, to allow this, requires the town or city to take steps to assure proper protection of motorists including upgrading signals at crossings and education of the public about the no train horn ordinance. Railroads don't like these local laws as they conclude it makes the crossings more vulnerable to collisions.

Blue emergency notification sign – A required visual in your presentation, these signs which include a toll-free number to railroad dispatcher and an identification number unique to each crossing, is visible from the crossing signal, crossbucks, or signal equipment box. Many railroads already display this sign, though the FRA will require such signage at every one of the 200,000 public rail crossings nationwide within the next two years.

Fred Hirsch, State Coordinator Maine Operation Lifesaver, Rail Safety Education  
207-945-6878  
mailto:Maineol@roadrunner.com  
www.mainol.org

- Firework Ordinance was brought up and the enforcement of fireworks. Paul will check on the Board of Selectmen fireworks ordinance and check with legal.
- Allen & Pownal Roads will be closed.
- Fairgrounds – issue during recreation time and ATV driving on the field.
- Water Project Gates are locked.
- Traffic has increase & parking on both sides of Bald Hill Road.
- The gate going into the field near the river could be open to traffic for parking at that end of field.
- Signage will be implemented during the week of September 09, 2014.
- Perhaps have a gate keeper (volunteer or a fee).
- Outlet Bridge needs to be replaced. The project was awarded on September 02, 2014.
- Cobbs Bridge Road is open but not fully finished with cosmetics yet.
- Public Works Department: close to hiring a new person.
- Elderly citizens in the community, address numbering and ambulance issue has been increasing.
- Bennett Road & Lewiston Road Intersection: best solution at minimum cost would be to have traffic light flashers installed.
- **The next New Gloucester Public Safety will be held on Thursday, October 02, 7:00pm at the New Gloucester Meeting House.**  
**Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm**

