

Public Safety Meeting Notes
Thursday December 5, 2019 @ 7pm
Meeting House

**Members Present: Nat Berry, John Randall, Richard Maguire, Tammy Donovan (Selectmen Liason),
Toby Martin (Fire Chief)**

Members Absent: Karen Gilles (Selectmen Liason), Ted Shane (Public Works Director)

Meeting was called to order @ 7pm

Nat Berry started the meeting off with discussing the Public Safety Workshop that was held on November 13, 2019.

Some of the discussion items at the workshop were as follows:

- Possible Security at large events like the Fairgrounds, Rowe Station and Pineland Farms.
- Speed of Traffic thru Lower Village
- Safety of Staff and citizens at the Transfer Station
- Public entering and exiting Fire & Rescue / Public Works Facilities

Toby Martin: Fair went well but should have future presence of security.

Some of his concerns are traffic along Bald Hill Road and the flow of traffic in and out of the fairgrounds. Currently the fairgrounds entrance/exit only permits one car at a time. This should be looked into not only at the large gate entrance, but also at the other end of the fairgrounds. Emergency apparatus needs to have ample room and pathways to get in and out should an emergency occur. Not only at the fairgrounds, but also at Rowe Station or any other large events taking place in New Gloucester.

Tammy: Suggested that the Community Fair Committee takes into consideration the cost of providing security detail in the future and adjusting the fees as needed to cover this cost.

Richard: There should be a permit required for large gatherings to include how security will be provided for large events.

Nat: Discussed the email he received from Pineland regarding having Nate Wight as a liaison for Public Safety Concerns for Pineland.

Toby: Said that we have a good working relationship with Pineland as he has already been in touch with Nate on some Public Safety concerns already and has been working with Nate to do some mapping of trails pinpointing lines of access for emergency response.

Nat: Started off the discussion of the dangerous speeds of traffic in the Lower Village and stated that it is a State Road and DOT is not easy to work with when trying to change speed limits or redirecting the flow of traffic.

Toby: Reported on the Halloween event that occurred in the Lower Village this past October stating that extra precautions were taken with more lighting and signage making this a wonderful event for the community.

Richard: Stated that the town can reach out to State Police and the County Sheriff department for large events such as this and request traffic detail. He also stated that it is important when requesting traffic detail that it is important to have specific dates and times that speeding occurs to help better address the situation.

Toby: Questioned whether or not we have contractual agreements with the State Police or Sheriff Department?

Nat: Opened up discussion on the Transfer Station stating that there are several large pine trees that should be taken down before they come down on someone or something. He also discussed the rotation of traffic and that the community at large has the same concerns regarding the flow of traffic and pedestrian crossing that is occurring there. He also stated that an engineer had come in several years ago to look into this at the cost of \$47,000 but nothing has been done about it yet because it doesn't come high enough on the CIP rating list.

Nat also stated that there should be more visible clothing provided to the staff working at the Transfer Station for identification and safety. Summer clothing options and Winter clothing options.

Tammy: Stated that these are concerns that should be addressed and looked into and will report back to the Town Manager Paul First with these concerns.

Nat: Moved on to discussion on the entrance/exit at the Fire & Rescue and Public Works Facilities stating that one of the problems is the lack of lighting at the entrance/exit. He also stated that he had a discussion with Ted Shane (Public Works Director) on the possibility of cutting back some trees along the road. Ted said that he would look into it but it is a State Road.

Toby: Said that there is improved parking at the Fire Station (utilizing parking off to the left of the building) and that he agrees that there should be more lighting down there.

Richard: Suggested that maybe there should be sign posts with remote controlled lights.

Nat: Stated that he had a discussion with the former Town Manager Carrie Castoguy and that she was looking into updating the lighting all thru town with CMP but that he never heard back from her regarding any updates on this.

The conclusion of the meeting included an **updated report** from the **Fire Chief Toby Martin** regarding:

- Nims Compliancy
- Grant received from EMA for portable radios
- Put in for Grant for gear for fighting forest fires (as it is different than the gear used to fight structural fires)
- Railroad Safety (Blue signage with # to contact to report any malfunctions etc. posted at all railroad crossings)

- Public Works Transitioning to new facility
- EMS recruiting going well with 21 members strong and only 2 are not currently cross trained
- 3 new community members recently approached him with interest in regards to Traffic Control for Fire/Police
- Recent loss of members for the Call Force Side

Tammy: Suggested another workshop meeting with the new Town Manager Paul First to discuss areas for safety concerns for the town.

Next Meeting TBD at a future time.