

Safe Routes to School Committee

Portsmouth, NH

Safe Routes to School Committee Meeting

9:00 a.m. – July 15, 2009

Little Harbor School, Clough Drive

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL: Rebecca Emerson, Chair and School Board Representative, Steve Parkinson, Public Works Director, Nancy Clayburgh, City Council Representative, Brendan Cooney, Traffic & Safety Representative, Kirsten Barton, Little Harbor Representative.

Also present were Edward McDonough, Superintendent of Schools and Sheri Nadeau, proposed At Large member.

Absent: Christine Casa and Jean Ward

Excused absence: Debbie Finnigan.

III. III. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES: April 15, May 20 and June 16, 2009 (attached) **MOTION** made by Kirsten Barton to accept the minutes of the April 15, May 20 and June 16, 2009 meetings as presented. Seconded by Brendan Cooney. Motion passed.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) Introduction of New Superintendent and bring him up to date – The members introduced themselves and welcomed the new Superintendent of Schools.

Steve Parkinson explained this Committee was set up as an off shoot from Traffic & Safety Committee, heavily staffed by City Councilors, Traffic & Safety members and City staff. As process evolved getting more towards School, as it is SRTS and in the past few years have been getting more representation from the Schools along with a Traffic & Safety member and City Council member. Parents have been involved with a representative from most schools. The schools are K-8, the Middle School and St. Patrick. We have gone through two fundings and some of our projects are being funded in these two rounds and slowly getting implemented. We have funding for weebles, bike racks and our contract with Alta Engineering for our travel plan study. We also have funding for various things concerned with our Walk To School Day (WTSD) process scheduled for October. We are trying to have this more a school function rather than a Public Works function. Public Works is here for support, but it is more a school function and parent involvement. Ultimately, as this evolves it will be more school.

V. OLD BUSINESS:

- 1) National Course for SRTS – October 2009 - Kirsten Barton feels that with more parent involvement this Committee will be better understood and suggested going before the School Board at their next meeting and make a presentation of what the one day conference scheduled for October 27th at the Public Library (National Course for SRTS) will be about and hopefully School Board members will attend. This conference will be focused on the Middle School and getting students involved is exciting. This conference is paid for by grant money, and not costing the City. This conference is open to the public, press releases will go out and will extend

invitations to the Mayor, City Council, School Board members, School Principals, PTA, PTO, City Staff, School Nurses, crossing guards, Police, Fire. Kirsten presented an Agenda for the October 27th conference. There will be an engineer present to address our concerns.

Kirsten also referred to the School quarterly Newsletter suggesting that SRTS updates be included. The engineer will be here the day before the Conference so that we may meet with him. It was suggested that Kirsten Barton would make the presentation before the School Board meeting on September 8th.

The invitations will go out in September after the School Board presentation.

Steve Parkinson reported receiving permission from the State to have the contract signed by Alta, it is signed sealed and delivered. Alta sent someone here prior to school closing to monitor students arriving and leaving school. A start-up meeting was scheduled with Alta for tomorrow morning at 11:00 a.m. at Public Works and you are invited to attend to discuss the travel plan contract and what the work product is. This includes all the elementary schools, the Middle School and St. Patrick.

Kirsten Barton stated that if we don't have a travel plan for each school we cannot apply for any money for infrastructure.

Weebles - placement of weebles and responsible party – We will order the six weebles and have them in time for start of school. Steve Parkinson stated that someone needs to be responsible for putting them out and bringing them in. It is important who is responsible and where they're placed. They must be in crosswalks. It was understood that St. Patrick does not want one.

Suggested that the school custodians take care of the weebles. The School Superintendent will look into this. Dondero School has an interest in having a weeble. New Franklin is concerned about placement. Dondero may need two weebles.

Brendan Cooney suggested that the Alta report could help us with this. And then review placement of the weebles after we receive more information from the Alta study. More weebles can be ordered in a future grant if they work as long as they are not replacements. The Chair stated two weebles at Little Harbor, two at the Middle School, one at Dondero and one at New Franklin.

Bike Racks – Placement – Steve Parkinson reported that the bike racks have not been ordered, we have the prices, they will be ordered, and we will have them by the start of school. Little Harbor, St. Patrick and Middle School will be receiving bike racks. Before installing the racks, Steve Parkinson will contact the respective schools for placement. Little Harbor is working on their placement.

Walk to School Day - October 2009

- a. Sub-Committee – Report Back – The chair stated that Joli and Francine are heading the sub-committee for WTSD were unable to be here today. We have money for t-shirts with a logo and banners. Joli has talked with a t-shirt vendor and she needs to know how many shirts per school and sizes. It was decided that the shirts be all the same color, a bright color for visibility such as yellow shirts and keep printing to one color. We need a plan in order to go to a vendor.

A meeting point was discussed where the students meet to walk and are continuing to work on this and will advise the Chair of each school's meeting place, the crossing guards and the Police representative if there is one.

The logo was discussed and it was decided that because of the time frame, the National SRTS logo be used.

The next meeting will be held on August 19, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. at Little Harbor School. The Agenda will include discussion on WTSD, an update on the meeting tomorrow with Alta, bike rack placement.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT (as time allows)

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The Complete packet is on file at the Public Works Department