

Safe Routes to School Committee

Portsmouth, NH

Safe Routes to School Committee Meeting

9:00 a.m. – October 7, 2009

Little Harbor School, Clough Drive

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL: Rebecca Emerson, Chair, Brendan Cooney, Vice-Chair and Traffic & Safety Representative, Debbie Finnigan, Traffic Engineer, Kirsten Barton, Little Harbor Representative.

Also present were Steve Zadavec, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Scott Study, Middle School SRO, Stephanie Lazenby and Francesca Tise.

Excused Absence, Councilor Nancy Clayburgh.

Absent: Jean Ward, St. Patrick representative, Christine Casa, Francine Horvath, Sheri Nadeau and Joli Foucher

Rebecca Emerson, Chair brought the meeting to order.

III. III. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES: September 16, 2009 (attached) As there was not a quorum the September minutes will be accepted at the November meeting.

Debbie Finnigan requested that at the next meeting we vote on the Committee.

IV. OLD BUSINESS:

- 1) Bike Racks –Debbie Finnigan reported the bike racks have arrived at Public Works. Debbie Finnigan reported that John Stokel suggested we wait to install them until more work is done with the site review and find a spot where they can be placed permanently. She felt the helix' could temporarily be put out but the bike bikes can too easily be picked up and stolen and should not be put out until they can be placed on concrete pads. John Stokel would prefer to wait until there is a location on the site that the pad could be poured and put them in permanently. The Chair requested that bike racks be placed on next month's Agenda.
- 2) Weebles – Debbie Finnigan reported that she put in a purchase order August 27th and she called last week asking why she had not received them, they said they weren't ordered yet, she faxed the purchase order she had and they looked in their file again. The weebles had not been ordered and the City should receive them in 3 weeks.
- 3) T-Shirts – Debbie Finnigan reported the bid opening will be Tuesday, October 13th and her goal is to get the contract signed off. The deadline they need to be done is October 27th. Joli Foucher offered to deliver them to the school with Deb's help offering to divide them and deliver them on the 28th to be passed out the morning of the walk as the shirts are an incentive to get the kids to walk, bike to school. The shirts will be at Public Works for pick-up on the 28th.
- 4) National Course (Kirsten Barton to Update) – Kirsten Barton reported a conference call will be held October 13th at 11:00 a.m. at Public Works.
The Chair reported at the City Council meeting she explained the National Course and that they would be receiving an invitation in their packet. As there is a conflict at the Library, the Course will be held in the Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers which in close proximity to walk to the Middle School to observe pick up and drop. Invitees to include City Council, School Board,

Traffic & Safety Committee, Police, parents and students. Deb Finnigan reported that John Stokel has students coming. Debbie Finnigan will forward to Amy Noble to include in parents packets, E-newsletter, Debbie will also place on the website.

- 5) Walk to School Day - Debbie Finnigan suggested having a meeting spot in order to serve as a central goal for the leader to get the kids there and give them their shirt. Dondero will meet at Fillmore where the crossing guard is. Franklin School will meet at the entrance to Franklin Drive with the shirts being distributed at the church and at the park, as I-95 divides the school. Little Harbour is. at the field on corner of Clough and South Streets. Middle School will meet at the Masonic Temple parking lot. The meeting time is for 30 minutes prior to school opening to begin the walk. The leaders will carry signs. Debbie Finnigan asked Scott Study to ask for Police presence at each location and he will be provided with a list of locations with a map. Scott Study will pick up the t-shirts at Public Works.
- 6) Travel Plan (optional if time allows –Debbie Finnigan referred to the meeting scheduled for Wednesday, October 8, 2009 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at the Portsmouth Public Library reporting that at the Middle School meeting last night there was a discussion of part of what is missing that the kids are not being heard so if we're going to have a plan, it really should have some in put from the kids. Having two separate meetings at the library, one room for the kids (6th-8th graders) and one for the adults. John Stokel feels he can get about 40 kids there and is calling the high school principal about getting a couple of kids per group to help facilitate so it's more on a student level. If we want to move the time back to 6:00-7:30 and have pizza and water. Suggested 2 or 3 pizzas donated for Walk to School Day. Stephanie Lazenby will contact Flatbread, Officer Scott Study will contact Pizza Factory. Francesca Tise will contact Hannaford's for water. The time has been changed to 6:00 -7:30 p.m. and remains at the Library.

Future Agenda Items

Members (voting Committee) - The Chair stated we need to discuss the Committee make-up and members, has contacted the City Clerk and will re-write who the Committee consists of, a representative from each school, a police (SRO) Officer, a City Councilor, Traffic & Safety person and will discuss this at the next meeting. Will ask the City Council to change the make-up of the committee.

Dondero Pathway will be on a future agenda.

New Franklin Circulation – This will be changed to Alta's recommendation, the travel plan.

Freiker System (www.freiker.org) – will remain as an agenda item.

The next meeting will be held on November 4, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. at Little Harbor School.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT (as time allows)

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The Complete packet is on file at the Public Works Department