



MOVING FORWARD WITH SAFETY

MEMBERS

Robert Andler
 Jerry Blystone
 Michael Brouette
 Roger Brandner
 Joe Davis
 James Foley
 Chris Hardy
 Richard Hoege
 Sgt. Todd Horn
 Kenneth Hutler
 Kathy Johnson
 Scott Klicko
 Avis Link
 Ryan Mayer
 Chuck Miller
 Barry Pufahl
 Margaret Rudolph
 Joseph Ruf
 Sgt. Mike Vasquez
 JoAnn Wingers

MISSION

Columbia County strives to make our roads the safest they can be.....

**COLUMBIA COUNTY
 TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION
 MEETING MINUTES**
 Columbia County Law Enforcement Center
 Law Enforcement Training Room
 November 8, 2019 @ 9:30 AM

Commission Members Present: Sgt. Todd Horn, Chris Hardy, Ken Hutler, Ryan Mayer, Michael Brouette, Robert Andler, Margaret Rudolph, Jerry Blystone, Avis Link, James Foley, Rich Hoege, Chuck Miller.

Commission Members Absent with Notice: Roger Brandner, Kathy Johnson, Barry Pufahl

Commission Members Absent: Joe Ruf, Scott Klicko, Sgt. Mike Vasquez, Joe Davis

Guests: Trace Frost (BOTS), Marie Darling Ellis (Emergency Management), Bob Tyllo (BOTS), Kristi Voelker (Kobussen Busses), James Grothman (Pride of America Campground), Jeff Clark (Pride of America Campground), George Beasley (Town of Pacific), Robert Roth (Town of Pacific), William Devine (Town of Pacific), D. Hall (Citizen)

The meeting of the Columbia County Traffic Safety Commission was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Lt. Todd Horn. Introductions were made by all present. An attendance sheet was distributed.

Motion by Andler to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Hardy. Motion carried.

Motion by Blystone to approve the August 9, 2019 meeting minutes as written. Seconded by Hardy. Motion carried.

Portage Police Chief Ken Manthey requested to address the Traffic Safety Commission and thank everyone for the hard work, time, and commitment to keeping our highways and streets safe.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Request to review Manthe Road for a Speed Reduction

Town of Windsor would like a speed reduction from 55 mph to 45 mph. The east half of the road belongs to Windsor and the west half belongs to the Town of Leeds. A speed study was done resulting in 90% of traffic reportedly

traveling slower than 55 mph. Hardy reported that the speed limit being reduced to 45 mph is unlikely to change traffic patterns significantly.

A motion was made by Hardy for the commission to refer it back to Windsor and allow them to do as they choose. Seconded by Horn. Motion carried.

2. **Review the area of North Main Street and HWY 22 in Pardeeville for crosswalks.**
There is no need to discuss this at this time, as Pardeeville is in the process of putting in crosswalks.
3. **Review area for motorist visibility and pedestrian safety on CTH G near West Bush Road in Pacific Township** The vision triangle is set at all intersections. Highway advised that any obstruction over 3 feet high needs to be removed from vision triangle. Right of way and deed discrepancies were discussed. Jim Grothman and Jeff Clark were present on behalf of the campground. The campground and the township have been working together over the past few months to resolve issues in regards to the vision triangle and have been reviewing past documents. The campground is supportive of the effort to post no parking signs on CTH G west of their location. *A motion was made by Hoege to table the issue until the next meeting and to come back to the February meeting with a map that outlays the proposed no parking area and allow the township and the campground to continue working on the issues. Seconded by Horn. Motion carried.*

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Review area of STH 51 to CTH B on CTH JV for possible speed reduction to 45 mph. (08/26/19 email to Lt. Horn from Mark Staven)** Discussion in regards to several issues in the area including, narrow bridge, reducing speed to 45mph in residential area, and defining start and end to the speed zones. *Motion by Hoege to table until February meeting and come back with pictures, video, and a segmented map depicting current speed zones. Seconded by Blystone. Motion carried.*
2. **Review area of CTH V/CTH J/Richards Road for traffic study and safety concerns at the intersection** A passing lane has been added to CTH VJ as V splits off and goes to the west. Discussion regarding concerns that there are no indicators to advise it is a turn lane or passing lane. *A motion was made by Horn to table the discussion until next meeting so that Commissioner Hardy can look into signage options. Seconded by Blystone, motion carried.*
3. **Discuss speed issues on Whalen's Grade** Whalen's Grade is an earthen bridge over Lake Wisconsin. There is currently a 45mph speed zone in place and there is no parking on the east side of the roadway. People park on the west side of the roadway and fish from the bridge. The roadway is in good condition, the visibility in area is excellent. *A motion was made by Blystone to keep the speed limit as is at this time. Seconded by Horn. Motion carried.*
4. **Review high risk rural roads memos for CTH F and CTH J & Discuss Traffic Safety Plan for county Roads** Highway Commissioner Chris Hardy discussed the safety plan for local roads, what kinds of accidents and issues we are having on local roads, and simple solutions that can be implemented and have an impact on safety. Commissioner Hardy discussed CTH F and advised that it has a chip seal on it and they will be looking at signage. The road surface on CTH J is in poor condition, and there is a resurface project planned between CTH CS and Lindsay Road three to four years out.

- 5. Move Over, Slow Down Pilot Program** Commissioner Hardy discussed the Move over Slow Down Pilot Program addressing safety of workers on the interstate from Hwy 33 in Portage to Mauston. Mock incidents were created and video and speed study were done to determine what traffic is doing in response to the incidents. At this time, the study has found that vehicles are complying at a significantly higher rate almost immediately when law enforcement is present with red and blue lighting, and compliance is significantly less for highway workers and towing companies. The report/study will be compiled and sent in at the end of November with recommendations.

FATAL ACCIDENT REPORT

Lt. Horn reported that we had one fatal crash in Columbia County since the last meeting that occurred on 10/27/19 at 3:55 p.m. on Hwy 60 near Hanneman Rd. A motorcyclist clipped the rear wheel of a gravity box being pulled by a tractor. The driver was fatally injured after being ejected from the cycle. There were no issues with the roadway and appeared to be due to a judgement issue. Trace Frost reported that Columbia County has nine fatalities so far this year resulting from seven accidents. Last year at this time Columbia County had ten fatalities. In the state of Wisconsin there have been 483 traffic crash fatalities compared to 510 at this time last year.

TRANSPORTATION SAFETY REPORT AND HIGHWAY SAFETY INPUT

A government property damage flag has been added to community maps so that jurisdictions can search for accidents by using the government property tag number if it was entered into the crash report. The TSC Resource page is being updated weekly, where it had previously been emailed out four times a year. BOTS can put graphs together with more specifics as needed and are a wonderful tool to utilize. Contact Bob if you have info you would like graphed for meetings.

DOT is working with the Village of Pardeeville on installing dynamic speed display signs on the north side of HWY 22.

Columbia County submitted a grant for safety funds and has been approved for hill cutting project CTH V and HWY 113 scheduled for 2023.

OTHER BUSINESS

Membership: *A motion was made by Rich Hoege to nominate Penny Kiefer as a citizen member to the Traffic Safety Commission. Seconded by Blystone. Motion Carried.*

ATV Traffic: Town of Marcellon has created an ordinance allowing ATV traffic on town roads and are in the process of putting signs up. Fort Winnebago already allows this.

Mr. Jerry Blystone requested to make a statement to the Commission. Blystone stated that it is a privilege to work with the City of Portage Officers and the Columbia County Deputies. He wished to thank the people who are doing the hiring and those who have been hired for doing a great job. He stated that there has been a lot of change in officers and deputies but the young people that are coming up are doing great work. Blystone would like for the Traffic Safety Commission to schedule a meet and greet with the new deputies/officers and have them attend a meeting so that we can let them know that they are supported, appreciate the work they are doing, as well as help educate them. Lt. Horn stated he would look into having the newer staff attend meetings when time permits.

A motion was made by Hardy to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Blystone. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 11:11 a.m.

Next Meeting Date: Friday, February 14, 2020 at the Columbia County Law Enforcement Center, 711 E. Cook Street, Portage, Wisconsin.

Respectfully Submitted,



Marie Darling Ellis for Kathleen M. Johnson
Secretary, Columbia County Traffic Safety Commission

APPROVED