

## **TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD MEETING**

**April 13, 2009 – 1:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Chairman Joe Waldron, Mechanicville PD; Thomas Parks, Charlton Police; Bob Murphy, STOP-DWI Coordinator; E. M. Rooney, Sheriff's Office; Cynthia Dort, Cornell Univ.; James Davis, D.A.'s Office; Anthony Pirrone, Galway PD; Dennis Latham, Stillwater PD; Will Crandall, Town of Wilton; Michael Williams, NYSP; Christina Hall, NYS Park Police; Charles Fuller, Ballston Spa PD; Andrew Prestigiacommo, Tom Mitchell, Saratoga Springs PD; Steve Williams, Daily Gazette

Chairman Waldron called the meeting to order.

Mr. Mitchell introduced Andrew Prestigiacommo who has moved into the Traffic Division, and he said he is moving into administrative duties.

Mr. Murphy said everyone should have the prom and graduation dates, and he said there have been some updates. He said the earliest prom dates are April 25, May 8 and May 9. Mrs. Ekman said Mechanicville's will be at the Hometown Lanes. Mr. Murphy said he will make a copy of the list for everyone, and the 16 hours for DWI patrols will be used for these. He said if overtime is needed for additional things, we will accommodate that.

Mr. Latham said after the training they received for the party patrol operations, two of their officers were on News Channel 9 and in The Post Star. Within 24 hours, they had their first underage party, and they made several arrests, he said. He stated the training was very beneficial. He said prior to the training, they had a drug awareness presentation at the Stillwater/Mechanicville Elks Club. He said there was a DEA agent there, and 240 parents and children. He said they are putting the radar dolly in front of their high school to slow traffic down.

Chairman Waldron said they arrested 23 people at two parties in Mechanicville. We gave them criminal summonses to appear in court, and we arrested the hosts of the parties. He mentioned Saratoga Springs PD parked a car in front of a house they knew was going to have a party, and the party never materialized. Let's try to prevent these parties from happening, he said.

Mrs. Ekman distributed copies of three pages that includes an invoice for overtime for party patrols or compliance checks. She said they still have their grant funding to provide some reimbursement. She said they would appreciate a reporting form because the money they used for the training comes from this State grant that are relatively short-term competitive grants – the better we look when we do the final report. We have been so gratified by the work that has been done already, she said. She stated the grant runs through May 31. The actual date of the occurrence needs to be prior to that in order for us to reimburse from that grant, she said. If there is information on this form that shouldn't be on there, please let us know about that, as we just made these forms up, she said. Mr. Murphy asked if this could be extended through graduations, and Mrs. Ekman said no.

Mrs. Ekman said Robin Lyle wrote a letter to the editor of The Saratogian. She asked if it was helpful to the departments to get outside recognition or would they prefer something be done at the town board meetings. Chairman Waldron stated they do not necessarily need recognition, but they do like positive press. Recognition is great, but I do not need it, he said. We are doing what is in the best interest of the children, he added.

Chairman Waldron stated e-grants must be submitted electronically, and it will bring you to a page that he will have to sign. He said he will hand deliver them to GTSC.

Chairman Waldron said Operation Safe Stop is a Statewide campaign targeting people who pass school buses. If you have a Step grant, you are required to participate on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, and I encourage everyone to participate, he stated.

Chairman Waldron said the Empire State Law Enforcement Traffic Safety Conference will be May 5 and 6 in Syracuse, and they would like more participation.

Chairman Waldron stated effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, the Governor signed legislation relative to slow moving vehicles. All slow moving vehicles must display a Slow Moving Vehicle emblem and have lamps on ½ hour after dusk and ½ hour before dawn. GTSC will be putting on a big awareness campaign, he stated.

Chairman Waldron said at next month's meeting, Rory Fluman from the Seniors will be here to do a presentation on new money to help in the way of older drivers.

Mr. Latham said their plate reader is up and running, and they have been making a lot of stops. Their last stop was a DWI, he said.

Mr. Crandall said as he discussed last month, Liberty Mutual Insurance and Massachusetts SADD did a study on teen drivers and bad driving habits. If someone in the car speaks up, that will curb the driver's bad driving behavior, he said. He said he believes this will catch on in the insurance industry. He said this may be on Liberty Mutual's website.

Mr. Crandall said since he retired, he has been doing consultant work. A lot of stuff he has seen is that accidents reports are not filled out correctly, and that causes problems for everybody later down the road, he said. He said usually, Driver 2 is never consulted because they are injured and taken to the hospital. Chairman Waldron requested Mr. Crandall to let everyone know if something is commonly occurring on an accident report.

Mr. Murphy mentioned in between proms and graduations, we have Memorial Day weekend in there, and that should be taken into consideration.

Mrs. Dort said they have an intensive two-week program at Ballston Spa High School for teen driver safety. Every day, they will be putting on programs with students and parents in the evening. Jim Murphy will do a program one evening. She said the programs will have the crash simulator, DWI goggles, and they have a 4-passenger golf cart. She said this will occur the last two weeks in May, and they will be putting a big push on that. We would appreciate any help, she stated. She said they would like to get this into every school in Saratoga County. Everything we have at Cornell is for Saratoga County, she said. Chairman Waldron acknowledged Mrs. Dort's hard work, and he said it is very much appreciated.

Mrs. Ekman said there will be a Victim Impact Panel tomorrow night in Clifton Park. She said Jim Murphy sent out a notice about the article in The Post Star regarding three people being arrested with high BAC's at their arrival at a Victim Impact Panel. We regularly have people ejected from these panels because they come there sometimes under the influence. The State Police takes care of that in Clifton Park, and Saratoga Springs PD takes care of that in Saratoga Springs. She mentioned the Sheriff's Department will be the law enforcement tomorrow night.

Mr. Davis said last month there was discussion on a display panel that could be taken from place to place. He mentioned Dennis Foley who was the STOP-DWI Coordinator for Albany County brings out a presentation that shows crashes involving college-age students. He agreed to allow us to make copies of it. He said it can be left at high schools during prom season. We are looking to see how much that will be to purchase that for the County, he said.

Mr. Prestigiacomo stated they have their second plate hunter assigned to Patrol Division because they have one in Traffic.

Mr. Prestigiacomo said they have their main annual car set event May 16<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Malta Community Center. He requested agencies that have Techs to send them on that day. State Farm is picking up that cost, he said.

Mr. Prestigiacomo stated they have two e-grants done and one to go. He mentioned they had a fatal on Route 50 south a couple of weeks ago, and most likely, it will be alcohol related.

Chairman Waldron said the bridge on Route 4 & 32 is being shut down. A lot of the traffic will be heading down South Main Street. He stated Upper Newtown Road will be the detour.

**\*\* NEXT MEETING – MONDAY, MAY 11<sup>TH</sup> AT 1:00 P.M. \*\***

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine M. Sodemann