



RYE POLICE DEPARTMENT

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To: Rye Select Board
From: Chief Kevin Walsh *KW*
Date: April 17, 2024
Re: Statement for Rye Select Board meeting April 17, 2024

Warrant Article # 30

Shall the Rye Board of Selectmen implement a plan to determine which (if any) town roads or portions thereof, having a posted speed limit 35 mph are not currently in compliance with State law, and establish a speed limit 30 mph on such roads, per RSA 265:60 and RSA 265:118?

- The police department and police chief are not in favor of warrant article #30. A Rye citizen told me (Chief of Police) they voted for my warrant article (Warrant Article # 30). Publicly I am not in favor of warrant article.
- It's not because the officers and I are not interested in safety, it's because this is not the answer.
- Definition of implement a plan: An **implementation plan** is a document that outlines the steps your team should take to accomplish a shared goal or initiative. Implementation planning is the counterpart to a strategic plan. The strategic plan details what strategies you **will** use to hit a specific goal.
- The Rye driver compliance plan is a document outlining the steps the Town of Rye (team) select board, citizens, visitors, have taken to accomplish shared goal, SAFE ROADS in Rye. 2018 through 2023 traffic crashes have reduced. This plan serves as a strategic and there is measurable success. Traffic crashes reported lower, data showing vehicles are driving at reasonable speed and the posted speed limits.
- On January 29, 2024, David Walker Assistant Director of Rockingham Planning Commission emailed William Lambert P. E. State of NH Safety Administrator, NH Department of Transportation Also NH DOT Traffic Engineer prior to new administrative position, about urban residence district 30 mph zone, RSA 265:118 and about rural residence district, Rye residents asking areas in Rye currently defined as rural could qualify as urban.
- Rockingham Planning Commission started to implement a plan to determine which (if any) town roads or portions thereof, having a posted speed limit of 35 mph are not currently in compliance with State law, I can only believe from the Rye representative. The warrant article criteria were started by Assistant Director David Walker reaching out to William Lambert NH DOT, former NH traffic engineer and now NH Safety Administrator for NH DOT.
- William Lambert and Dave Smith, NH DOT Project manager consulted because Daina Seigle had been contacted Dave Smith about same topic. Therefore, another person, Dania Seigle, has started to implement a plan to determine which (if any) town roads or portions thereof, having a posted speed limit of 35 mph are not currently in compliance with State law, with Dave Smith NH DOT Project Manager.

- Both Rockingham Planning Commission and NH DOT Traffic Safety Administrator and Project Manager of NH DOT have communicated about the Rye posted speed limit of 35 mph and if the 35-mph posted speed limit in Rye is or is not currently in compliance with state statute.
- NH DOT used Town of Exeter NH Business District (downtown),
- The City of Portsmouth NH Urban Residential District is more of a city/urban neighborhood.
- The Town of Rye Rural Residence District is more of a suburban, transitional, description.
- William Lambert NH DOT former traffic engineer now State Highway Safety Administrator of NH DOT, opinion, the 30-mph speed limit is the most mis-used in the state, on state or local roads.

Based on the email from David Walker Assistant Director Rockingham Planning Commission, email from William Lambert State Highway Safety Administrator Nh DOT, and email from David Smith Project Manager Bureau of Highway Design NH DOT, cc to Attorney Roger Wigley and Dania Seiglie, the requirements of warrant article # 30 have been completed.

1. Selectmen implement a plan to determine which (if any) town roads or portions thereof, having a posted speed limit 35 mph are not currently in compliance with State law.
2. The Select Board reviewing the information from reliable professionals who have education, training, several years job experience in traffic engineering and traffic counts.
3. Reliable professionals compared Washington Road, Rye, NH between almost Libbey Lane and Brackett Road, a 35 mph speed zone to another town and city on the seacoast of NH and Washington Road is in compliance with state law.

Rye police, Rye Department of Public Works, continue to use the Rye Driver Compliance Plan on every road in Rye, and the police officers continue to use the plan to improve poor driving behavior.

Cc: Rye Town Administrator Matt Scruton
 Assistant Town Administrator Becky Bergeron
 Rye Highway Director Jason Rucker