

**New Jersey Safety Institute
Initial Board Meeting
July 12, 2012, Hosted by PERMA**

The meeting was called to order by David Grubb at 10:05am.

The following people were present:

Christopher Botta, Esq., Botta&Assoc.
Joeen Ciannella, PERMA
David N. Grubb, PERMA
John Hardiman, NJM
John Fink, NJM
Marty Kalbach, NJSBAIG
Paul Miola, AJG
Christopher Wagner, NJSACOP, Chief Denville
Mike Wiederhold, MunichRE
Lisa White, NJSBAIG

The following people were excused:

William Dressel, Exec. Dir., NJSLOM
Mitchell Sklar, NJSACOP
John Tiene, Consolidated Ins. Agents, Inc.

Welcome and introductions were made.

Dave Grubb stated that at the League of Municipalities Convention in November 2012, that NJSI would have use of the Media Room to show the "*Pedestrian Safety*" video and have discussion regarding the safety programs.

Presentation of the "*Pedestrian Safety*" video and discussion

Dave Grubb introduced the video, "*Pedestrian Safety*" as the first presentation of the NJSI/Community Safety Leadership Program. The video was shown.

Discussion on Community Safety ensued after the video on "*Pedestrian Safety*".

For each town, there should be a Community Safety Committee comprised of representatives of the governing body, town officials, DPW, school officials, police and fire officials, EMTs and citizen volunteers. This group should have all the materials available to get information into the community. The solutions to safety issues need to be community based. The residents need to know why these accidents are happening. For example, the late development of full hearing capacity in young children accounts for very young children darting out into the street to cross to the other side. They do not hear the oncoming traffic as an older child or adult would. They do not fully hear except for what is directly in front of them. This committee should be able to go out into the community to spread the news.

Chris Wagner: Agreed that the elected officials would not be aware of all of the safety issues. There now is the issue of distracted drivers through cell phone use and texting. There is a general decrease in police manpower due to budget restraints and the first place to cut is traffic safety. We need to have multiple ways to get this information out into the community: people, signs, and other traffic safety items.

Paul Miola agreed that there is a lack of adequate trained people. He was concerned that this could create a standard that is not realistic. Need a disclaimer. He was impressed with the video. Dave Grubb agreed on the need for a disclaimer (which actually is there but did not show the credits at the time).

Dave Grubb stated that part of the vision is to have an advocate in Trenton. We need to have a coordinated, simultaneous effort by towns, counties and the state and a media blitz. The state Risk Manager, Bill Mayo is willing to participate.

Paul Miola asked if there would be any state funding available. Dave Grubb expressed concern about state funding because the NJSI needs to be able to speak out when necessary. However, there may be grant dollars available to towns.

Chris Botta stated there may be grant dollars available through "*Safe Streets to Schools Program*". He suggested that at the League of Municipalities Convention in November have someone from a town who has done safety programs discuss how they did it. Take a map of your community and circle the hot spots. Dave Grubb suggested putting together a core of safety officials to go out to 3 or 4 towns and use them as prototypes. Chris Wagner suggested using towns where there are concentrations of people.

Marty Kalbach asked when the video would be distributed. He discussed the School Boards Convention which is the last week in October. Dave Grubb stated ideally 4 weeks from now in August for Police Departments for Crossing Guard training and in November at the League of Municipalities Convention for the towns, along with the School Boards Convention. Marty suggested an informational piece to go along with the video such as material on a 3 by 5 card with basic information about NJSI. Dave thought this was a good idea.

In the packaging will also be two Crossing Guard videos and the video of "*Whilly Whistle*". We are also hoping for a preliminary website.

Mike Wiederhold asked about the enforcement of issues such as distracted driving. Police Chief Wagner stated that yes, his police department did stop people for distracted driving and that he felt that distracted driving will become a National issue with federal dollars available. He also stated that the state is cracking down on texting and that there will be penalties for such. The NTSB maybe going for a ban on devices in the car. We need an explanation to the public on what is really happening in your brain as you are using these devices. Your brain is overloaded and cannot comprehend that much information at a time. Dave stated that the auto manufacturers are putting safety devices in their cars.

Organizational Items

Chris Botta is doing the filing for the NJSI. He has filed with the state and has filed for the nonprofit status. As long as we are in the process with nonprofit status, the organization can accept donations as tax exempt. NJ Manufacturers contributed \$10,000 to the MEL which helped to produce the "*Pedestrian Safety*" video. Dave asked Chris to set up a bank account. He will do this. Chris also suggested that there be an accountant on the board of the NJSI. It was duly noted.

Organizational Meeting

An interim Board of Directors was chosen: Mitchell Sklar, Exec. Dir. NJSACOP, Marty Kalbach, Exec. Dir., NJSBAIG and Paul Miola, Area Exec. VP/Niche Dir. Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Mgt. Services, Inc., (William Dressel/Exec. Dir. NJ State League of Municipalities?)

Dave Grubb stated that the NJSI can go either of two ways. One, it can become a small organization of volunteers from local towns that are coordinated by NJSI. Two, It can become a large organization of advocacy with a fulltime staff, et al. This later approach would have an annual budget of \$300,000 to \$400,000. New Jersey Manufacturers is in support of this option.

Dave Grubb called the business meeting to order. The following people were nominated and elected:

President: David Grubb

Vice President: John Tiene

Treasurer: Paul Miola

Secretary: Marty Kalbach

Recording Secretary: Joeen Ciannella

By-Laws committee was set up to be done by the committee as a whole.

There will be a release to the media of the announcement of the formation of the NJSI sometime in August/September. Ideas will be circulated about the media release for the next meeting.

At our next meeting we will discuss: Fundraising, have a draft of the By-Laws, suggestion of an accountant to be on the board, media release of the formation of the NJSI, plus other issues to come before the members.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, Aug. 30 at 10am hosted by Munich RE.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50am.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Joeen Ciannella, Recording Secretary