

DERRY HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Minutes for October 20, 2016



COMMITTEE MEMBER	PRESENT	ABSENT
Scott Savard, Chairman	X	
Walter Deyo, Co-Chair	X	
Ed Garone, Derry Police	X	
Mike Gagnon, Derry Fire Dept.		X
Jane Simard, Derry School Dept.		X
Randall Chase	X	
Denise Christoni		X
Tom Landers	X	
Vacant		
Alan Côté, DPW		X
David Kelley (School Dept Alt)		
George Feole (Police Alt)		
Scott Jackson (Fire Alt)		
Mike Fowler (DPW Alt)	X	

A monthly meeting of the Derry Highway Safety Committee was held Thursday, October 20, 2016 at the Derry Municipal Building Center. Meeting was called to order at 9:02 am.

Approval of Minutes

Mike Fowler made a motion to accept the minutes of September 15, 2016 as presented.

Walter Deyo seconded.

MOTION PASSED (5 – 0 – 1) Randy Chase abstained.

OLD BUSINESS

Dorothy Theriault – Drew Rd – Slow Children Sign and Reduce Speed Limit

Guests - Jessica & Brian Karlberg and Jean Pagluica were present at the meeting.

Dorothy Theriault mentioned that the traffic study was performed at the opposite end of Drew Rd.

Ed Garone asked if she had descriptions of the vehicles or times that it has been more frequent.

Jean Pagluica and Dorothy Theriault agreed that it was during the morning/afternoon during the commuting times that it was common to see them speeding. However, it was 7 days a week.

Jessica Karlberg mentioned that there were motorcycles as well speeding down the road.

Dorothy Theriault mentioned that the Hampstead and Derry Police Departments have been called however, seeing that Drew Rd is so far out the motorists speeding are long gone before an officer can get there.

Ed Garone stated that it was an enforcement issue.

Brian Karlberg added that he was outside with his kids and they speed right around them.

Jean Pagluica has seen motorists on 2 wheels, squealing around the corner.

Mike Fowler stated that the Public Works Department had performed a traffic study on Drew Rd. It provides the Police and Public Works with data on the speeds. The 85% percentile was traveling 45mph. Enforcement would be the better way to go. If you put signs out at a lower speed people still go the same speed.

Jean Pagluica felt Drew Rd was a cut through and asked if it could be a one way.

Jessica Karlberg added that Drew Rd was narrow.

Mike Fowler felt that turning Drew Rd into a one way would not solve the problem.

Dorothy Theriault stated that in Hampstead the speed limit is 30 mph and they enforce it.

Mike Fowler commented that we can a lot of calls from residents shortly after their road had been paved and wish the Town had not paved the road. You want to post the road with a reasonable speed limit that can hold up in court.

Ed Garone mentioned that speeding concerns were a common complaint all over Town and the Police Department tries to address those best they can. Police presence does affect the speeds, but when the officer leaves the speeds go back up.

Dorothy Theriault explained that parents can't let their kids cross the street alone, as the motorists do not stop or slow down.

Jean Paglucia mentioned that her dog was recently killed on the street.

James Morgan stated that the Police Dept does their best to police the roads in Derry.

Jessica Karlberg asked if the Town would consider rumble strips or speed bumps.

Mike Fowler stated that while working in Peabody MA, they tried the speed bumps. The youth would take videos of motorists jumping the humps. So they were removed shortly after that. He added that rumble strips would cause a noise issue for the residents.

Ed Garone commented that the Town had tried rumble strips by Pinkerton and received numerous calls.

Randy Chase stated that those rumble strips have been paved over.

No action was taken by the Highway Safety Committee.
Police Department will be responding with enforcement.

NEW BUSINESS

John Polucek – Stop signs - Sunset Cir @ Sunset Ave and Sunset Ave @ Sunset Cir

John Polucek felt it was a political move to install the sign. He noticed in the backup that the Highway Safety Committee had originally proposed a Yield sign. There are only 5 houses on Sunset Circle and there was considerably more residents on the petition requesting the stop sign than live on the street.

Mike Fowler stated that Mr Polucek was correct in saying that this Committee had suggested a Yield sign be installed. This situation is similar to Coles Grove @ Beaver Lake Ave. Does the committee want to go back to the Town Council to propose the stop sign is removed and replaced with a yield sign.

James Morgan agrees that the stop sign is not needed, and should be replaced with a yield sign. He felt that the residents on Sunset Cir and Sunset Ave should be made aware of the concern before this committee moves forward with going to the Town Council.

Randy Chase mentioned that the Town Council would be extremely hesitant to remove the stop sign.

Tom Landers mad motion was made to send out postcards to the residents of Sunset Ave and Sunset Cir to get their feedback before moving forward. Discussion tabled to the November meeting.

Seconded by Randy Chase

Vote PASSED (6-0)

John Polucek – Stop signs – Cemetery Rd @ Church St

Randy Chase – Prior to 2006 the Town had been receiving numerous complaints from residents regarding the sight distance issue at this intersection. Trucks didn't have adequate sight distance to safely proceed onto Cemetery Rd. People driving larger vehicles

Discussion only. No action taken by the Highway Safety Committee.

Isaac Berhane – Speeding – Tsienneto Rd

Mike Fowler introduced Isaac Berhane to the committee. Isaac has emailed Mike Fowler regarding his concern with the intersection of Scenic Dr @ Tsienneto Rd. There are hedges, curve, and hill that make coming out of Scenic Dr onto Tsienneto Rd dangerous. The sight distance is limited.

Mike explained that there is one proposal to have Exit 4a come out onto Tsienneto Rd that will take the hill out. If they decide to go with the Alternative A design would be construction in 2021-2022. A traffic study was done and the 85% percentile were traveling at 21 mph over the speed limit. This too is enforcement issue.

Ed Garone stated that the Department recently received a grant to fund a dedicated officer to enforcing speed limits. He also suggested that the temporary speed limit sign be installed as well.

Isaac stated that the sight distance on Scenic Dr look to the right was adequate, but looking to the left was limited.

Mike Fowler stated that the Department has written a letter to the homeowner of the hedges requesting that they trim back the hedges, with no response. We will continue to work that avenue.

The Police Department will follow-up with enforcement regarding the speeding.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mike Fowler – State of New Hampshire will be holding a Public Hearing on December 5th at 7:00 pm here at the Derry Municipal Center to discuss the intersection of English Range Rd, Scobie Pond Rd at Rt 28 By Pass Lights.

Ed Garone stated that he received a concern at the Tsienneto @ Route 28 regarding the right turning arrow does not allow for pedestrians to safely cross on the Fire Eye side. Motorists do not yield for pedestrians crossing that section.

State Statues states that motorists must yield to Pedestrians; maybe the Town could install a "Turning vehicles yield to pedestrians" (R10-15) sign to remind motorists.

Randy Chase made a Motion to adjourn at 10:05 am.

Seconded by Tom Landers

MOTION PASSED (5 – 0)

Next Meeting is Thursday – November 17, 2016

Respectfully,

Sharon Jensen