

DERRY HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Minutes for July 20, 2023



COMMITTEE MEMBER	PRESENT	ABSENT
Scott Savard, Chairman		X
Ronald Goldthwaite, Co-Chair	X	
Chief George Feole, Derry Police	X	
Chief Jim Richardson, Derry Fire	X	
Superintendent Alan Côté, DPW	X	
Jane Simard, Derry School Dept.		X
Walter Deyo, Citizen Member	X	
Randall Chase, Citizen Member	X	
Lindsay Clapp, Citizen Member		X
Jodi Nelson, Citizen Member	X	
Jeremy Lamothe (School Dept Alt.)		X
Patti Doyle (School Dept Alt.)		X
Director David Eastman (Fire Alt.)	X	
DPW Director, Mike Fowler (DPW Alt.)		X
Captain Vern Thomas (Police Alt.)		X
Captain David Michaud (Police Alt.)		X

In attendance:

Mr. Muharem Mahmutovic – 1 Pinkerton Street.

Mrs. Brendena Fleming – 56 Tsienneto Road.

A monthly meeting of the Derry Highway Safety Committee was held on Thursday, July 20, 2023, at the Derry Municipal Center. The meeting was called to order at 9:05am.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the June 15, 2023, meeting, were reviewed.

Alan Côté made a motion to approve the June 15, 2023, minutes as written.

Seconded by Walter Deyo.

MOTION PASSED (6–0). Two abstained, Chief George Feole and Randall Chase.

OLD BUSINESS

1) Mr. Ralph Imondi – 32 Hilda Ave – update on request to add striping on collector roads in Town. Alan Côté stated that Mike Fowler, Public Works Director, will be communicating with the Town Council to see if they will entertain the request. The Town Council is currently meeting once a month and the Highway Safety Committee will be looking to them for guidance on the request. No update at this time.

2) Mr. Stephen Mauzy – 35 High Street - tabled from the June meeting. Alan Côté looked at the feasibility of a crosswalk in this area. Between 31 and 29 High Street there are no sidewalks at all. Alan Côté would not recommend a sidewalk there. The only place could be located on Jefferson at High, but it would have to be a diagonal crosswalk. This is a one-way road with not a tremendous amount of foot traffic. He sees no need for a crosswalk.

Chief George Feole asked if the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) has a minimum for pedestrian foot traffic. Alan Côté replied that there is no minimum and that a crosswalk is up to our discretion. He asked if we should table this topic to allow for Chief Feole to evaluate the area between Jefferson and Cedar (halfway). Chief Jim Richardson stated that it will take longer to cross the street at a diagonal.

**Alan Côté made a motion to install a crosswalk on Jefferson Street @ High Street.
Seconded by Randall Chase.**

MOTION FAILED (0-8).

Further discussion of a crosswalk halfway between Cedar & Jefferson @ High Street. Walter Deyo stated that he would not recommend a crosswalk leading onto the grass.

**Alan Côté made a motion to install a crosswalk halfway between Cedar & Jefferson @ High Street.
Seconded by Chief Jim Richardson.**

MOTION FAILED (0-8).

NEW BUSINESS

1) Ms. Jen Thielker – Taylor Library – requesting a solar flashing light system crosswalk in front of the library. Tabled from May meeting (not discussed at the May meeting).

Alan Côté stated that the Upper Village Hall has its own parking lot outback. It used to be that Taylor Library patrons crossed the road to get to the Upper Village Hall. That is no longer the case. The cost for this flashing beacon light system is approximately \$15k.

Jodi Nelson agrees that the people crossing the street are not going to the library. People are not crossing at crosswalk. They are crossing to go to the store.

Alan Côté further stated that the cross traffic would have to walk an additional 150 feet to the area where a flashing beacon light system could be installed and would be ineffective. However, if the crosswalk is relocated it will cause issues at the post office and the store if vehicles are backing out.

**Alan Côté made a motion to install a flashing beacon light system in front of the Taylor Library.
Seconded by Chief Jim Richardson.**

Walter Deyo stated that adding a beacon light in this area may confuse drivers and may cause more accidents.

Alan Côté stated that no one is crossing at this location, and expending funds for this would be a waste of financial resources.

MOTION FAILED (0-8).

2) Ms. Lauraine Hutchinson – 39 Windham Depot Road – request for a 30mph sign, blind curve sign ahead, and radar trailer placement.

Chief George Feole stated that the letter written to the Highway Safety Committee was a very specific area of Windham Depot Road. The speed study reflects that there is a need for enforcement of the speed limit. Chief George Feole indicated that the Derry Police Department will be making two efforts in the weeks ahead. 1) Targeted patrols in the area. 2) The radar trailer will be moved to that area for educational purposes to show the speed of vehicles and to calm the traffic in the area.

Alan Côté stated that there is not an excessive curve there. This is repetitive traffic that knows where the curve is, but it is not a strong curve. Chief George Feole stated that this is a law enforcement issue with the 85th percentile, being 42.28 mph. The traffic study occurred from 7/11/2023 to 7/19/2023 – and had 15,000 vehicles. Out of those 15,000 vehicles, 169 drove from 43 mph up to 62 mph, and the highest was 68 mph. This is an issue that the Derry Police Department can address.

Regarding the request to lower the speed limit, this is a state statute that rural roads outside an urban area shall be posted at 35mph.

Chief George Feole stated that a five-year traffic study was done and that there have been ten accidents in the area. Of those, eight were single vehicle accidents that were related to poor weather conditions.

There is no action to take from a Highway Safety standpoint. Derry Police will handle this enforcement issue. Jill Jamro to send a letter to Ms. Lauraine Hutchinson.

3) Mr. Muharem Mahmutovic – 1 Pinkerton Street – site plan review. He currently has ten parking spaces in his parking lot with one handicapped space.

Mr. Muharem Mahmutovic stated that he is working toward finalizing and adding more apartments at 1 Pinkerton Street. He is requesting permission to add three parking spaces to the other side of By-Pass 28, adjacent to his building.

Alan Côté explained that there is no parking overnight in Derry from November 15th through April 1st. Mr. Muharem Mahmutovic stated that there are eight parking spots currently on By-Pass 28 and he is seeking three more parking spots. He stated that he will comply during no parking times. There is enough space and width on the road to support additional parking spots.

Alan Côté replied that he measured the parking spaces in front of the fieldhouse and there is 11' and 12' of width. His concerns are: 1) the parking spaces are too close to the travel way and 2) that cars on the hill (which is a challenging intersection) could restrict sight distances looking North and that may not be wise.

Mr. Muharem Mahmutovic stated that there is a Sanford site study.

Alan Côté asked about the sight distance if a box truck parks there. Did the surveyor or engineer provide him with the certified distances? It is the responsibility of the person coming to the Highway Safety Committee to come in with sight verification.

Chief George Feole stated that the Technical Review Committee (TRC) usually asks for a sight distance plan and for certified sight distance profiles. These should be provided to the Town of Derry.

Mr. Muharem Mahmutovic stated that he is going to the Planning Board, he was not asked for the sight info. Chief George Feole stated that a certified plan is required to prove what he is asserting. He asked if the three parking spaces are for the apartments and how many apartments exist. Mr. Muharem Mahmutovic replied that right now, there are two (1) bedroom apartments on the first floor and after, there will be two (2) bedroom apartments, so a total of six bedrooms.

Chief George Feole stated that the requirement just for the six apartments would be nine parking spots, with 1 ½ parking spaces per bedroom. Mr. Muharem Mahmutovic stated that he plans to seek a variance to waive that requirement. He stated that the parking demand is for other uses. Chief George Feole asked what the requirement is for the first floor and the retail store?

Randall Chase stated he thinks that the requirement is six spaces plus two handicapped spaces. He will check the zoning regulations. He will email Jill Jamro, to forward to the Highway Safety Committee.

Alan Côté made a motion to table the site plan review for further discussion once Mr. Muharem Mahmutovic provides the following:

- 1) A certified sight distance plan from a licensed land surveyor or licensed engineer.**
- 2) That vehicles will not back out onto Pinkerton Street.**
- 3) Show where the dumpster is located, as it cannot be in a parking spot.**

Seconded by Randall Chase.

MOTION PASSED (8-0). Jill Jamro to send a copy of today's draft minutes to Mr. Muharem Mahmutovic.

4) Councilor Katsakiores – Brian Ave – request for “ Slow Children” advisory sign. The MUTCD studies show that they are ineffective and have not been installed in Derry for many years.

**Alan Côté made a motion to install a slow children sign on Brian Ave.
Seconded by Randall Chase.**

MOTION FAILED (0-8).

5) Mrs. Brendena Fleming – 56 Tsienneto Road – Pumpkin Wall Farm - request for permission to park a school bus or van alongside Horseshoe Drive, and vehicles in front of the chain link fence.

Jill Jamro apologized to Mrs. Fleming for her oversight for not listing her on today’s agenda.

Mrs. Brendena Fleming explained that the Pumpkin Wall Farm Animal Sanctuary has been asked by Barka Elementary, Hood School, the YMCA, and nursing homes if she could provide tours to her sanctuary. She is doing her due diligence as she was advised to seek approval from the Highway Safety Committee from the Planning Department regarding overflow parking. Five cars can fit comfortably in the driveway with a parking attendant assistant. Overflow if needed on the property, off the street on the Horseshoe side facing the chain link fence. She stated that currently school buses park alongside the road on Horseshoe Drive.

She is asking for permission to have vehicles parked on Horseshoe Drive in front of the chain link fence and when needed to park a bus or van where the school buses park now. She stated that the animal therapy provided is in small, intimate groups of ten people or less at a time. She foresees one classroom at a time.

Chief George Feole stated that he would prefer that students take a bus or van as the transport mode. Alan Côté stated that there would be a continuous curb cut there and that he would not recommend that vehicles park nose in on Horseshoe Drive. The maximum width of a curb cut is twenty-four feet, and if multiple vehicles park there, it will become one giant driveway. It is now dry but what happens in the rain/snow, vehicles may have a hard time backing out.

Chief George Feole asked why Mrs. Brendena Fleming was here today and what she is seeking? Mrs. Brendena Fleming stated that she went to a business start-up meeting in Derry and was told to seek approval for parking. David Eastman confirmed that she attended the TRC meeting on April 21st. TRC is made up of Planning, Building, Fire, etc. in a roundtable fashion so that applicants can meet with the TRC members all at once, instead of having multiple meetings.

Randall Chase asked if there would be tours year-round. Mrs. Brendena Fleming stated that you can only go to the sanctuary if you purchase a ticket in advance using Fandago. The patron numbers are completely controlled, with no walk-ins.

Alan Côté stated that any buses or vans parked should be parked parallel to Horseshoe Drive (so that they are not backing up at all). From a highway safety standpoint, the nose in parking is concerning. He suggested that a driveway permit be applied for in front of the chain link fence, if they choose to make parking for their personal vehicles on that side of the property. There is no

cost for the driveway permit, just food for thought, and the Town can look at sight distances as well.

Chief George Feole indicated that it is ok for a bus or van to park alongside Horseshoe Drive – that is not prohibited. Alan Côté stated that they need to ensure that the bus or van is parked at least fifty feet from the intersection. Horseshoe Drive is a very low volume road, and it is lawful to park there. He does not endorse the idea of nose in parking in front of the chain link fence.

No action to take. Copy of the draft minutes to be sent to Mrs. Brendena Fleming and the Planning Board.

**Alan Côté made a motion to adjourn at 10:05am.
Seconded by Walter Deyo.**

MOTION PASSED (8-0).

The next meeting is Thursday, August 17, 2023, at 9am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jill Jamro, Recording Clerk