

DERRY HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Minutes for September 21, 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. Chris McCarthy & Mr. Karl Dubay – Site Plan Review – 41 Ashleigh Drive & 37 Scobie Pond Road.

A monthly meeting of the Derry Highway Safety Committee was held on Thursday, September 21, 2023, at the Derry Municipal Center. The meeting was called to order at 9:03am.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the August 17, 2023, meeting, were reviewed.

**Alan Côté made a motion to approve the August 17, 2023, minutes as written.
Seconded by Walter Deyo.**

MOTION PASSED (7-0).

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

1) Mr. Nicholas Zaharias – 20 Paul Ave – speeding concerns and speed limit sign requested. Mr. Zaharais was not present.

Alan Côté stated that a traffic study was conducted from August 22, 2023, to September 5, 2023. There are no speeding issues on Paul Ave. The 85th percentile showed vehicles traveling at 32 mph.

Alan Côté made a motion to take no action.
Seconded by Walter Deyo.

MOTION PASSED (7-0). Note: the speed limit sign was installed prior to this meeting as the ordinance was already in place.

2) Ms. Helen LoPresti – 3 Hood Road - request for speed limit signs and school zone signs on Perley and Hood Road.

Alan Côté stated that he is not aware of any speeding or traffic accidents in that area. Alan Côté asked Chief Feole if he is aware of any traffic accidents, Chief Feole replied, no. This is not a state road, it is an area of repetitive traffic. Jodi Nelson stated that speed limit signs and school zone signs are not necessary, and more signs may cause more confusion.

Alan Côté made a motion to take no action.
Seconded by Jodi Nelson.

MOTION PASSED (7-0).

3) Ms. Bridget Jensen – 10 East Derry Road – speeding concerns and request for speed limit signs on East Derry Road near Derry Village Rotary.

Jodi Nelson stated that she travels the road a lot. She knows there is a crosswalk there. Alan Côté stated that this is a bad location for a crosswalk, and that it was there before he started working for the Town of Derry. Normally crosswalks are between two sidewalks.

Jodi Nelson has seen children in the crosswalk. Given that this is a residential area, would the residents want flashing beacon lights? Chief Feole stated that Ms. Jensen is asking for two things, solar powered radar signs and flashing beacon lights. This is a low volume area for pedestrians.

A traffic study was conducted on East Derry Road at the corner of True Ave from September 13, 2023, to September 18, 2023. Two vehicles were traveling between 81-87 mph. However, this is not accurate, as Alan Côté explained that they are coerced outliers, meaning that two vehicles ran

over the strip at exactly the same time from different directions. Chief Feole stated that he can't see how a vehicle would be able to accelerate to that speed in that area, so that makes sense.

Chief Feole stated that 124 vehicles traveled from 50-56 mph, clearly speeding is an issue. He has spoken with the Operations Captain and officers will be out ticketing speeding motorists. Alan Côté stated that the speed limit is 30 mph and the 85th percentile shows vehicles traveling at 40 mph.

Chief Richardson stated that motorists have a number in their head when traveling that they feel they can safely travel at, such as on the highway.

Chief Feole stated that his officers will take action to step up speed enforcement. This is a low usage area and neither solar powered radar signs nor flashing beacon lights are recommended.

Alan Côté made a motion to draft a letter to Ms. Jensen stating that given the low pedestrian usage in the area no solar powered radar signs or flashing beacon lights are recommended by the Highway Safety Committee. In addition, Ms. Jensen is encouraged to call the Derry Police Department when she witnesses speeding, and they recommend that she back into her driveway to avoid backing out into the street.

Seconded by Walter Deyo

MOTION PASSED (7-0). Jill Jamro to draft a letter for the Highway Safety Committee chair to sign.

4) Mr. Chris McCarthy – Site Plan Review – proposed development at 41 Ashleigh Drive & 37 Scobie Pond Road.

Mr. Chris McCarthy is the property owner and Mr. Karl Dubay is the engineer for this project located past Walmart on Ashleigh Drive (62 acres). Mr. Chris McCarthy stated that this will NOT be an Amazon facility.

The 7 ½ acre lot on Scobie Pond Road, is a 50,000 sq. ft. building. A Massachusetts company will be there and will have 30 employees accessing the facility via Scobie Pond Road. There is an emergency access that is gated that connects the two parcels. There is no cut through from the Scobie Pond lot to Ashleigh Drive. The traffic on Scobie Pond Road will be minimal. The company stages for large events.

The larger property is 55 acres – and they worked with abutters to have a conservation easement. This will extend the cul-de-sac at the end of Ashleigh Drive. The traffic will be on the left side of the building. They hired VHB as their traffic engineers. They conducted a trip generation letter. This new site does not generate a significant amount of traffic at any one point in time.

Chief Feole asked if there was no level of service charge? Mr. Chris McCarthy replied, no.

Scobie Pond Road - will have one shift – during the day.

Ashleigh Drive – will have three shifts – 24 hours a day. The majority will be day shift.

Mr. Karl Dubay stated that this is not a retail site, it is industrial with security, and will generate less EMS and police calls. The trucking in/out is well managed. The Planning Board has approved the cul-de-sac. There is not a lot of curbing, paint is easier to maintain. They worked with Mark L'Heureux on this.

Alan Côté mentioned the 50 tractor trailer docks. Mr. Chris McCarthy stated that there are 54 tractor trailer docks. Mr. Karl Dubay clarified that this is for inventory management and that having a separation between the tractor trailer docks is easier to maintain. Approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ of the tractor trailer docks will be used at any one point in time.

Chief Feole stated that the area is 400,000 square feet, and Mr. Chris McCarthy stated that it is 370,000 square feet, with a mezzanine and more than ample parking. They have spoken with the Conservation Commission and the snow storage will be within the parking lots.

Mr. Karl Dubay stated that they addressed all of the Technical Review Committee (TRC) concerns. There is a complete separation of trucks and passenger vehicles.

Chief Feole asked if the approximately 200 employees will be spread over three shifts. Mr. Chris McCarthy replied that 70% of the employees will work first-shift. He further explained that there will be security guards on site.

Chief Richardson asked about the new plan and if there is a motorized single gate for emergency access? Mr. Karl Dubay answered that there is one gate. Chief Richardson asked about winter maintenance. Mr. Karl Dubay stated that there is an easement for EMS that will be kept clear. Chief Richardson asked if the fire truck turning requirement is met. Mr. Chris McCarthy stated, yes.

Both sites will have 90% heavy pavement and the aisles will be heavy pavement as well. Light duty pavement will be in the employee parking lot.

Alan Côté asked about Scobie Pond as it relates to Highway Safety. Mr. Karl Dubay stated that the sight distance is well over 400 feet in both directions. The tractor trailers must turn left which is a condition of the site plan. He further stated that this makes perfect sense, and he has no idea why tractor trailers would take a right.

Alan Côté stated that the larger site will have a negligible amount of traffic compared to Pinkerton Academy which has approximately 1,000 vehicles at the end of the school day.

Alan Côté asked if they looked into phase timing for Asheigh Drive to Manchester Road. Mr. Chris McCarthy stated that VHB indicated that there is no need for adjustment.

Alan Côté stated that he sees no issues with the site plan and that very little traffic will be generated. Chief Feole stated that he has no concerns with the proposed site plan and asked about the timeline. Mr. Chris McCarthy stated that the plan meshes with Exit 4A, and the expected timeline is the first quarter of 2026.

Mr. Karl Dubay stated that this is a dual site plan application. Scobie Pond wants to build quicker and the sewer extension starts right away, gas will be moving in back there.

Alan Côté made a motion that the Highway Safety Committee has no concerns with the proposed site plan. Jill Jamro to send a copy of the draft minutes to the Planning Department and to Mr. Chris McCarthy and Mr. Karl Dubay.

Seconded by Chief Feole.

MOTION PASSED (7-0).

Jodi Nelson made a motion to adjourn at 9:43am.

Seconded by Alan Côté.

MOTION PASSED (7-0).

The next meeting is Thursday, October 19, 2023, at 9am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jill Jamro, Recording Clerk

Adopted October 19, 2023



Scott Savard
Highway Safety Committee Chair