

DERRY HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Minutes for April 21, 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	
Dennis McGinnis		X
Tom Landers	X	
John Potucek	X	
Alan Côté, DPW	X	
David Kelley (School Dept Alt)	X	
George Feole (Police Alt)		
(Fire Alt)		
Mike Fowler (DPW Alt)		

A monthly meeting of the Derry Highway Safety Committee was held Thursday, January 21, 2016 at the Derry Municipal Building Center. Meeting was called to order at 9:00 am.

Approval of Minutes

Alan Cote made a motion to accept the minutes of January 21, 2016.

Walter Deyo seconded.

Motion passed. (7 – 0 – 2) Randy Chase and Walter Deyo abstained.

OLD BUSINESS

Wall St – Speeding – Traffic Count

Alan Cote explained the traffic count results to the Committee. He explained that the 85th percentile was traveling at speeds of 27.5 mph. It was very clear that there was not a speeding issue on Wall St.

No action taken by the Committee at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Brad Russell – E Broadway – Crosswalk Concern

An email was received from Brad Russell explaining his concern regarding the crosswalk at McAllister Court. He went on to explain a close call he and his girlfriend experienced at 6:15pm while crossing at that location. He wanted to know if something could be done to change this extremely dangerous situation.

Alan Cote provided an update on the crosswalk concern. He stated that the Highway Division was looking into having a lighting study done to determine if the problem had to do with the lighting of the Downtown. He went on to explain that both motorists and pedestrians have a responsibility to ensure that motorists see the pedestrian before actually crossing the street.

Scott Savard questioned if the Highway Division was still looking into the laminated crosswalk devices he had mentioned at a previous meeting.

Alan Cote stated that the Department was still looking into them as well, but didn't want to move forward until after the results from the lighting study comes back.

Walter Deyo added that residents have approached him to see if a "Entering Downtown" sign could be installed as you come up the hill heading into town heading towards Halligan Tavern.

Alan Cote asked if the members had been to Concord NH recently and noticed that motorists all stop at the crosswalks and that is due to enforcement.

John Potucek stated that the north end of Main St in Concord has been completed and they are working on the south end. The north end has a semi-island in the middle made out of stone.

Alan Cote stated that the island is a calming design. He feels the problem is due to motorist and pedestrian inattentiveness.

Randy Chase added that the street is very wide at the crosswalk at McAllister Court. Motorists are turning down Wall St, McAllister Ct, as well as trying to going to the light to access Birch St and Crystal Ave. Occasionally, motorists block the crosswalk adding another layer of difficulty for pedestrians to cross the road in that location.

Scott Savard stated that this crosswalk is not the only concern in the Downtown area. The crosswalk at Halligan Tavern is another crosswalk we receive calls on. He asked Chief Garone if an Officer could be hired to assist during events at the Adams Memorial Opera House.

Ed Garone stated that it is an option to hire a police detail; however it can be pricey. He wondered if crosswalk notification signs were in place similar to the signs on Kendall Pond Rd at the Bike Path.

Randy Chase stated that mobile “Pedestrian Crossing” signs should be going back in the middle of the street soon now that winter is over.

Alan Cote felt that the sight distance could be improved by eliminating parking spaces downtown, but he felt it would not be approved by the Town Council. Maybe the crosswalk should not be located mid-street at Halligan Tavern but at the intersection of Maple St.

John Potucek questioned if the crosswalk could be painted another color.

Alan Cote stated that the Highway Division has tried painting the crosswalk different colors in the past and the results have been similar. We will be repainting this spring.

Ed Garone questioned if we could install pavement markers along the crosswalk.

Alan Cote stated that he would look into the cost of that as well. He added that he saw a sign in California at a crosswalk reminding the pedestrians to “Stop, Look, Wave, Cross”.

Mike Gagnon stated that this concern stated that the close call was on April 1st at 6pm. It is still light out that that time, so it is not a lighting issue.

Scott Savard questioned if we could do another raised crosswalk similar to the one at Manning St.

Alan Cote stated that doing a raised sidewalk is not just about adding a raised crosswalk; we also have to look at the drainage in the area. He didn't feel there was a speeding issue on Broadway because there was just too many people going in different directions in the Downtown area.

Scott Savard asked when the study would be completed.

Alan Cote stated that he was not sure and suggested that the topic be tabled to the May meeting.

Alan Cote made a motion to table the discussion to the May meeting.

Seconded by Randy Chase.

MOTION PASSED. (9-0)

Charles Ronchetti Jr. – Pierce Ave – Speed limit sign or speed bumps

An email was received from Charles Ronchetti Jr concerning the young drivers traveling at speeds of over 50 mph and would like to request a speed limit sign or speed bumps be installed.

Randy Chase explained that it was a hangout location.

Ed Garone stated that the police have to walk a fine line. They have the right to gather. However, there have been some arrests there and agrees that it is a difficult situation for residents.

Alan Cote felt that adding a speed limit sign would not be productive. He was willing to place a traffic counter out there to determine traffic speeds for discussion at the next meeting.

Discussion tabled to May meeting

Elections

Mike Gagnon nominated Scott Savard to be Chairperson.

Seconded by Alan Cote

MOTION PASSED (9-0)

Mike Gagnon nominated Walter Deyo to be Vice Chair.

Seconded by Scott Savard

MOTION PASSED (9-0)

OTHER BUSINESS

John Potucek – Martin St – 1 way violations

John Potucek questioned if Martin Street was a legal one way.

Alan Cote stated that it was and was listed that way in the Town Ordinance.

John Potucek questioned if he could take a photo of motorists going the wrong way and forward it to the Police Department for them to ticket.

Ed Garone stated that he was not sure; he would have to look into it further.

John Potucek – Cell phone use while driving

John Potucek questioned if the law needed to be revised or if a resident could report a violation to the police. He asked if a police officer could be located at various locations in town to view motorists on their phone to ticket.

Ed Garone stated that there was plenty of Law in place regarding cellphone use while in a vehicle. The issue is enforcement. He explained that officers are usually filling out written reports while sitting and may not see a motorist on their phone.

John Potucek – South Ave @ Birch St – No left turn

John Potucek questioned if the Committee would consider posting no left turn coming out of South Ave.

Alan Cote explained that you would be forcing motorists to turn right coming out of South Ave and funneling them into a residential neighborhood for those who want to head downtown. He went on to explain that the Town has a No Right Turn at Pearl St @ Crystal Ave, however there are 2 south bound lanes making it difficult to take a right crossing both lanes. Wall St is a one way due to the distance from the lights at East Broadway @ Crystal Ave. South Ave has experienced some accidents, but not many.

John Potucek felt the Town could make it better.

Alan Cote made a motion to adjourn at 9:40 am.

Seconded by Randy Chase.

Motion Passed 9-0

Next Meeting is Thursday – May 19, 2016

Respectfully,

Sharon Jensen