

DERRY HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Minutes for June 15, 2017



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	
James Roddy	X	
Ronald Goldthwaite		
Vacant		
Alan Côté, DPW	X	
David Kelley (School Dept Alt)	X	
Vern Thomas (Police Alt)	X	
Scott Jackson (Fire Alt)		
Mike Fowler (DPW Alt)		

A monthly meeting of the Derry Highway Safety Committee was held Thursday, June 15, 2017 at the Derry Municipal Building Center. Meeting was called to order at 9:03 am.

Approval of Minutes

Alan Cote made a motion to approve the April 20, 2017 minutes as presented.

Seconded by

MOTION PASSED (8 – 0)

No Meeting was held in May 2017.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Dave & Celeste Reid – Deer Crossing Sign – Kilrea Rd – The email from the resident was read at the meeting stating his concern and request for a “Deer Crossing” sign near 26 Kilrea Rd.

Alan Cote requested that the Police perform a search for deer related accidents along Kilrea Rd. The Police Department went back 5 years and was not able to find any accidents related to hitting a deer.

Alan Cote added that this committee has never put up a Deer Crossing sign in Town, but went back to the MUTCD Guidelines where it stated that these signs were suggested if there was a well-defined path the deer were taking, however, that is not the case on Kilrea Rd. It also mentioned in the guidelines that signs were only to be posted on roads with speed limits of 45mph or higher. Kilrea Rd has a speed limit of 35 mph.

Vern Thomas made a motion to install a Deer Crossing sign on Kilrea Rd.

Randy Chase seconded.

MOTION FAILED – (0-8)

Chelsea Benedict – Disabled Child Sign – Elwood Rd – The email sent by Chelsea Benedict was read at the meeting.

Alan Cote mentioned that this Highway Safety Committee doesn’t endorse putting up Handicap, Blind, Slow Children or a Wheel chair signs as it has been proven to give people a false sense of security.

There has only been one case where the Town installed a “Wheel Chair” sign and it was on Folsom Rd (high volume road) and it was because the homeowner needed to be able to get to in their mailbox which was across the street.

Elwood Dr is a low volume horseshoe road and posting a sign would not slow the traffic down. Traffic along this road is mostly residents along on the street.

If motorists do not frequently see the handicapped child or wheel chair in the road the sign simply become part of the scenery. The homeowner would be better to create a letter and distribute it among the neighborhood.

Vern Thomas added that placing a handicapped or disabled child sign doesn’t help motorists to identify what type of handicap or disability a child has. The Department has found these signs not

helpful in preventing an accident and agrees that a letter or flyer to the neighbors would be a better solution.

Vern Thomas made a motion to install a Disabled Child sign on Elwood Rd.

Seconded by Alan Cote

MOTION FAILED - (0-8)

Danielle Merrill – Speeding concern – Kendall Pond Rd

Danielle Merrill from Birchwood Heights came to the meeting to present her residents concern regarding the speeding along Kendall Pond Rd. She mentioned that most of the residents were older and their reaction time has slowed. She was wondering if a “Caution Elderly” sign could be installed on Kendall Pond Rd.

Alan Cote went out before the meeting to measure the sight distance from the entrance of the driveway. He explained that generally when we are taking measurement for sight distance we take them 10 feet back from edge of travelled way. This is not as far back as the stop bar. As you can see from the photo there is 275ft of sight distance coming out of the Birchwood Heights driveway. He also mentioned that the bushes didn’t impact the sight distance. The residents need to move up closer to the road.

The distance of 275 feet meets the MUTCD guidelines. The guidelines state that motorists should stop at the stop bar and then proceed with caution. One suggestion would be to instruct the residents to move up closer to the road to allow for better sight distance.

Alan Cote mentioned that a traffic counter has been installed out on Kendall Pond Rd near the driveway and will collect various data regarding speeds, times and type of vehicle is using the road. He will not have the findings until next week, so we may want to table the discussion until that data can be retrieved.

Danielle Merrill stated that one resident suggested that the Town install a mirror on the other side of the road so that motorists can see the oncoming traffic coming down Kendall Pond Rd.

Vern Thomas stated that the Police Department has not found mirrors to be successful. In the email from Danielle, it references an accident that took place at the driveway and it was determined that the motorist failed to yield from the driveway.

Vern Thomas added that here were other roads in Town with similar issues as to getting out into traffic during peak hours. Having the landscaping trimmed back is a great idea providing you keep up with it as vegetation can grow quickly.

Alan Cote stated that Birchwood Heights has the advantage of having a nearby traffic light, which creates pockets in the traffic and allows motorists an opportunity to get out onto the road. The residents need to be patient or consider turning right out of the parking lot during peak hours.

**Alan Cote made a motion to table discussion until the May meeting.
Seconded by Vern Thomas
MOTION PASSED (8-0)**

OTHER BUSINESS

**Alan Cote made a motion to adjourn at 9:26 am.
Seconded by Vern Thomas
MOTION PASSED (8 – 0)**

Next Meeting is Thursday – July 20, 2017
Respectfully,
Sharon Jensen