

DERRY HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Minutes for September 21, 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
Jim Roddy	X	
Ronald Goldthwaite	X	
Jared Vaughn		X
Alan Côté, DPW		X
David Kelley (School Dept Alt)	X	
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, September 21, 2017 at the Derry Municipal Building Center. Meeting was called to order at 9:02 am.

Approval of Minutes

Ronald Goldthwaite made a motion to approve the August 17, 2017 minutes as amended.

Seconded by Jim Roddy

MOTION PASSED (5 – 0 – 2) Ed Garone and Mike Fowler abstained.

OLD BUSINESS

Wendy Gleason – English Range Rd - Speeding

Mike Fowler explained the results from the 2015 traffic study that was done on English Range Rd. Currently English Range Rd is posted at 30 mph. The traffic study shows that the 85th percentile is traveling at speeds of 46. The Mean speed is 34.7 and the Median speed is 31.26. Based on traffic study data the Town could receive a petition to have the speed limit increased to 45 mph.

Mike Gagnon questioned how they come up with the 85th percentile.

Ed Garone stated that this is a nationally recognized method. The 85th percentile speed is a speed that 85 percent of vehicles do not exceed. Another way of looking at it is that only 15 percent of vehicles go faster than this speed, and 85 percent go at or below this speed.

Wendy Gleason commented that this report was 2 years old and at the last meeting the board approved to have a study done. Many people use this road as a cut through and traffic is going faster.

Mike Fowler stated that Southern NH Planning also conducts daily counts of various roads in Town every 2 years. If you look at the report for English Range Rd it show the following traffic counts:

English Range Rd – East of NH 28 By-Pass

2006/3,300 vehicles 2008/3,800 vehicles 2012/3,600 vehicles 2015/3,200 vehicles

English Range Rd – North of NH 102 Chester Rd

2006/1,300 vehicles 2008/1,300 vehicles 2012/1,300 vehicles 2015/1,200 vehicles

As you can see over the past 16 years, you can see that the vehicle counts are pretty stable.

Ed Garone would request that the DPW Crew install a post sign, so that his Department can place the portable reader at that location.

Wendy Gleason felt that having police presence on the road would be helpful to make motorists realize that someone is watching.

Jim Roddy questioned how many accidents have been filed with the Police Department.

Wend Gleason stated that there was a fatal accident last year.

No future action taken by the Committee. DPW & Police will the portable reader.

Jared Vaughn – Goodhue Rd – Dangerous Curve

Mike Fowler explained the traffic study report that was recently done on Goodhue Rd. Currently the speed limit on Goodhue Rd is 35 mph. The traffic study shows that the 85th percentile is traveling at speeds of 40.21 mph. The Mean speed is 35.9 mph and the Median speed is 35.9 mph.

At the previous meeting it was determined that advisory signs would be placed along both sides of the dangerous curve. The Highway Division has ordered the signs and will install as soon as they are delivered.

No future action taken by the Committee. DPW will install the advisory signs when delivered.

NEW BUSINESS

John Hayes – North Shore Rd (Beaver Lake) Speeding

Mike Fowler stated that North Shore Rd (Beaver Lake) has been before this Committee multiple times for the same concern. This road is currently posted at 30 mph. This road is narrow in some areas. The traffic study shows that the 85th percentile is traveling at speeds of 40 mph. The Mean speed is 31.0 mph and the Median speed is 28.63 mph.

Mike Gagnon added the DPW recently added another speed limit sign that put up near McKinley Ave.

Mike Fowler added that in the note provided there was not much detail regarding their specific concern, no there is nothing else to discuss at this time.

Ed Garone felt that it the additional traffic may be school related.

No future action taken by the Committee.

OTHER BUSINESS

Road Improvements - Mike Fowler stated that Highway Department tries to cut down trees, have poles relocated, and make other improvements to the roadways when possible. Currently, there is a pole out on Gulf Rd that the Division has asked Eversource to relocate as it is physically in the road at edge of pavement. The Department recently increased the sight distance at the intersection of Cemetery Rd @ Island Pond Rd.

Pedestrian Crosswalk Signs - Mike Gagnon mentioned that he has been hearing positive feedback regarding the crosswalk signs that were recently install on East & West Broadway.

Mike Fowler stated that Pinkerton Academy was also looking to install similar crosswalk signs by the school as well. They will be to get approval from the Town Council to install.

Ronald Goldthwaite made a motion to adjourn at 9:25 am.

Seconded by Jim Roddy

MOTION PASSED (7 – 0)

Next Meeting is Thursday – October 19, 2017

Respectfully,

Sharon Jensen