

DERRY HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Amended Minutes for July 18, 2019



COMMITTEE MEMBER	PRESENT	ABSENT
Scott Savard, Chairman	X	
Jim Roddy, Co-Chair	X	
Ed Garone, Derry Police	X	
Mike Gagnon, Derry Fire Dept.	X	
Jane Simard, Derry School Dept.		X
Alan Côté, DPW	X	
Walter Deyo	X	
Ronald Goldthwaite	X	
Randall Chase		X
Jacob Pelletier		X
Jeremy Lamothe (School Dept Alt)		
Patti Doyle (School Dept Alt)		
George Feole (Police Alt)		
Jim Richardson (Fire Alt)		
Mike Fowler (DPW Alt)		

A monthly meeting of the Derry Highway Safety Committee was held Thursday, July 18, 2019 at the Derry Municipal Building Center. Meeting was called to order at 9:02 am.

The meeting did not follow the agenda order.

Approval of Minutes

Alan Côté made a motion to amend the June 20, 2019 minutes and strike Derry Feed from page 2. Alan Côté made a motion to approve the June 20, 2019 minutes with that one amendment.

**Seconded by Jim Roddy.
MOTION PASSED (7 – 0)**

OLD BUSINESS

Paul Ave/Gregoire Street: speeding. This topic was discussed at the June meeting. Traffic counter results from Tuesday, July 9, 2019 shows the 85th percentile was 34.51 mph and the 95th percentile was at 34.11 mph. Jill to send Samuel Faulkner a letter with the results.

NEW BUSINESS

Two residents of **15 Nesmith Street** were present: Heidi Gorman and her mother, Beverly Gorman. Committee members read a letter they submitted requesting that the Town authorize a NO PARKING ordinance on the even side of Nesmith Street.

They voiced their concerns about a new fence installed outside Hillside Estates. The issue is that Hillside Estate by-laws prohibit commercial vehicles and motorcycles to park in their parking lot. It is unknown when the fence was erected but over the last few months. The commercial vehicles (parked on Nesmith Street) pose a safety hazard as motorists cannot see around them and vehicles have to allow one side to pass at a time. They are requesting that the Town of Derry prohibit parking on the odd side of the road.

Alan Côté indicated that for possibly 20 years, there has been an ordinance for 2-hour parking from 7am to 3pm.

Beverly Gorman stated that she had a motor vehicle accident on July 7th and in trying to avoid the parking cars while backing out of her driveway, she inadvertently hit her daughter's car with her own. A police officer had responded and noticed that further down the street there is a no parking sign on the even numbered side of the street. Alan Cote stated that it is not a town sign and that if there is one, that a resident may have put it up. Beverly indicated that motorists cannot see out of Silvestri Circle due to a van blocking the view to Nesmith Street and that vehicles have to take turns to pass each other. Beverly Gorman stated that the motorcycles although they take up the parking on the road do not obstruct motorist views.

Mike Gagnon asked if Hillside Estates Condo Association has any ownership to remedy the parking for its residents. Their parking rules are creating an issue on the roadway. Alan Cote stated that he has seen a small box truck parked there.

Jim Roddy asked if the argument is that the commercial vehicles are parked illegally. Mike Gagnon thinks that we may need to put the onus on the condo association. Scott Savard asked what authority we have regarding parking on the roadway. If a no parking sign is installed, the problem may just move elsewhere. Alan Cote added that a no parking side on the odd side of the road may create a hardship for other homeowners with respect to having guests and would limit parking for everyone on Nesmith Street. If there is a no parking sign, they cannot selectively allow specific residents to park there.

Scott Savard asked if the issue should be brought to the Town Council. Alan Cote explained that they would need to recommend an ordinance for the even side of Nesmith Street. Chief Garone explained that the circumstance of having to pass vehicles one at a time is prevalent on many town roads and would ask why the committee would recommend an ordinance for this circumstance?

Beverly Gorman stated that Nesmith Street is a shortcut to get to 102.

Scott Savard asked about the outcome of this meeting. Alan Cote agrees with Chief Garone, and that he would not recommend prohibiting parking on both sides of the street. It is not uncommon to have motorists yielding to one another. It may not be wise to create an ordinance.

Beverly Gorman indicated that there were no motorcycles on the street last night and Alan Cote indicated that there was one parked on 102.

Chief Garone suggested fog lines, they are helpful at night and would provide two-way travel as they prohibit parking on the roadside. This practice could become a town wide ordinance. Alan Côté stated that then vehicle owners could say they didn't know about the ordinance. Chief Garone stated that staff could issue a warning the first time and a ticket the next time should that occur.

Alan Côté is concerned that other residents will want this as well.

Mike Gagnon asked if Silvestri Circle was a new condo would they be able to have by-laws like the ones in place now. Chief Garone stated that the condo would be in compliance with the zoning rules.

Scott Savard stated that they presented striping to the Town Council in the past and that was not approved. They can approach the Town Council again.

Alan Côté will check with Bob Mackey to find out if Code Enforcement has any authority regarding commercial vehicles parked in a residential zone. It may be a violation of zoning.

Beverly Gorman asked if the condo association owns beyond the fence and maybe they told residents to park their motorcycles and commercial vehicles on the roadway.

Scott Savard indicated that Nesmith Street from Pinkerton Street is a cut through.

Alan Côté made a motion to table this topic to the next meeting.

**Seconded by Jim Roddy.
MOTION PASSED (7-0)**

Resident at 55 Chester Road: Speeding. The speed limit is posted at 40 mph. The mean was 45 mph and the maximum 79 ½ mph. The 85th percentile was at 49.2 mph. 49.6 percent of the drivers were in the range of 43 mph to 50 mph. Alan Côté stated that there is a sign opposite the nursing home that is 1,000 ft beyond Pond Road. A letter will be sent to the owner at 55 Chester Road with the results.

Scott Savard stated that there is a large amount of traffic on Beaver Road due to delays on Tsienneto Road. Exit 4A has increased in cost from 56 million to an 80 million project.

Jim Roddy stated that there are no thru trucks posted all over the state on narrow roadways. Alan Côté stated they are not enforceable. The state can limit the weight but cannot single out interstate commerce. Jim Roddy stated that he has ignored them as needed and he just drove slowly. Jim Roddy stated that someone recommended that he start watching the FB page, Bringing Derry Together. He read posts from Monday regarding Paul Ave and was surprised to see the negativity and people posting that the committee did not do anything. He felt that the committee was 100% respectful to them. Out of 102 posts, only one was positive. Scott Savard advised not to give any rebuttal on social media. The Highway Safety Committee conducted the traffic count studies already and have taken the steps that we are able to take. Alan Côté stated that their next step could be to go above the Highway Safety Committee to the Town Council.

Alan Côté made a motion to adjourn at 9:52 am.

Seconded by Jim Roddy.

MOTION PASSED (7 – 0)

Next Meeting is Thursday, September 19, 2019

Respectfully Submitted,
Jill Jamro, Recording Clerk