

DERRY HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Minutes for October 17, 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)	X	
Patti Doyle (School Dept Alt)		
George Feole (Police Alt)		
Jim Richardson (Fire Alt)	X	
Mike Fowler (DPW Alt)		
Vern Thomas		

A monthly meeting of the Derry Highway Safety Committee was held on Thursday, October 17, 2019 at the Derry Municipal Center. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the September 19, 2019 meeting were reviewed. Alan Côté asked that the sentence on page 4, "It is at .75 for the first 75 feet" be stricken from the minutes.

Alan Côté made a motion to approve the September 19, 2019 minutes with that one amendment.

Seconded by Walter Deyo.

MOTION PASSED (7– 0) with Chief Garone abstaining as he was not present at the last meeting.

Jim Roddy mentioned that it was noted in the September meeting minutes that he and Scott Savard would follow up with the Southern NH Planning Commission (SNHPC) as they are soliciting

project requests for road safety improvement. Jim Roddy would choose J & F Farms on 102 up to Auburn Road, he was looking for input from the committee regarding other locations.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1) A resident from the Derry Village Area, Thea LaCorte requested a crosswalk to connect Thornton Street across East Derry Road. Alan Côté conducted a site visit of the area. He measured the distance from the center of Kingsbury Street, commencing northerly along Thornton Street and crossing East Derry Road then continuing along Thornton Street across the pedestrian bridge across Chester Road up Thornton Street to the intersection of Nesmith Street totaled 1640 feet. Beginning at the center of Kingsbury Street and proceeding southerly to South Main Street then proceeded northerly along the sidewalk and two crosswalks through the traffic circle, continuing northerly on North Main Street to the intersection of Pinkerton Street is 1755 feet. The difference is 115 feet for students to walk. Discussion ensued, that at the proposed intersection there is no sidewalk on Thornton Street and crosswalks are not normally installed when the crosswalk would lead to an unprotected walk area (roadway without a pedestrian sidewalk). There is a sidewalk on North Main Street along with two crossing guards. Alan Côté indicated that an additional crosswalk would create a false sense of security for pedestrians. Jim Roddy indicated that the continuation of a sidewalk is one reason why pedestrians should continue to be directed toward the existing crosswalk. Alan Côté would not encourage pedestrians to cross East Derry Road and would not recommend adding a crosswalk in this area. Students should be encouraged to continue to utilize the existing crosswalk and sidewalks for travel to and from Pinkerton Academy safely. Jim Roddy stated that it is a natural human reaction to walk in the most direct way to Pinkerton Academy but that going left is by far the safer alternative.

Chief Garone made a motion to implement a crosswalk to connect Thornton Street across East Derry Road.

Randall Chase seconded the motion.

Motion failed (0-8).

OLD BUSINESS

Additional discussion about potential grants for road safety improvement through the SNHPC.

Jill Jamro to email the Highway Safety Committee after today's meeting with the information from the map, Streets with Fatal and Incapacitating Crashes in Derry, that was shared by the SNHPC at the last meeting. Jim Roddy mentioned that the locations are all state highways and not town roads.

Alan Côté stated that over the past 25 years, that the Town of Derry has straightened out roads and tried to take out 90-degree angles and hair pin turns like on Drew Road.

Jim Roddy stated that it is human nature that if the roads are changed or straightened that the speed will increase overall.

Jim Roddy stated that there is an electronic sign near North Shore Road (it has not worked in a few months, only the blue dot appears, but no speed numbers appear). The batteries may be dead. Randall Chase stated that as of yesterday, the sign was not working on the lake side. Chief Garone asked that committee members call him if speed lights are out. Jim Roddy indicated that he likes the signs. Chief Garone stated that they are unobtrusive and serve as a reminder for motorists.

Jim Roddy provided an update on Ballard View Circle and Drake Lane. He explained that his involvement with the Highway Safety Committee came up when he was with his neighbors. He explained that the committee is an advisory board. He was told by his neighbors that pedestrians are speed walking across that intersection. They have been seen not breaking their stride while crossing the road and that cars get dangerously close to them. The pedestrians are failing to yield and are not paying attention to oncoming traffic. Alan Côté reiterated this is the reason for not placing a crosswalk there. Jim Roddy stated that was his point for bringing up the subject. Chief Garone asked about the site distance, it is 440 feet to the left and 1,200 feet to the right.

Jill Jamro explained that the Highway Safety Committee received a Release of Public Servitude between 33L & 35R Juniper Road. Alan Côté explained that this has no bearing on the Highway Safety Committee or DPW (for a paper street). Randall Chase asked about the abutters as the properties are duplexes. Alan Côté explained that any property right issues become a civil matter. The rights go to the center line.

The Highway Safety Committee has no objection to this release of public servitude.

**Alan Côté made a motion that the Highway Safety Committee has no objection to the Release of Public Servitude between 33L and 35R Juniper Road.
Seconded by Randall Chase.**

Motion passed (8-0) that the Highway Safety Committee has no objection and it was explained that the Town Council makes that decision.

Chief Garone indicated that the Derry Police Department recently conducted speed checks on North Shore Road near Collette's Grove. Motorists primarily traveled between 40-45 mph. Only one warning was issued. Alan Côté offered to put down traffic counters at any time as well.

**Alan Côté made a motion to adjourn at 9:41 am.
Seconded by Randall Chase.**

Motion passed (8-0)

The next meeting is Thursday, November 21, 2019.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jill Jamro, Recording Clerk