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DERRY HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMITTEE
Minutes for December 19, 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)		
Mike Fowler (DPW Alt)		
Vern Thomas		

A monthly meeting of the Derry Highway Safety Committee was held on Thursday, December 19, 2019 at the Derry Municipal Center. The meeting was called to order at 9:02 am.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the November meeting were reviewed. On page 4, snowplowing culvert should be steel culvert.

**Alan Côté made a motion to approve the November 21, 2019 minutes as amended.
Seconded by Walter Deyo.**

MOTION PASSED (7– 0) with Mike Gagnon & Jacob Pelletier abstaining as they were not present at the last meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1) Letter from Mr. & Mrs. Donald Batchelder; requesting to permanently ban on-street parking between the intersection of Fenway Street and East Broadway and the corner which terminates in front of 3 Fenway Street.

Mr. Batchelder, resident of 1 Fenway Street since December 1988 was present. He stated that the second corner of Fenway is problematic even in good weather. He stated that part of Fenway is seen as a Grand Prix route. He was involved in a head on collision and his parked car while at 3 Fenway was hit as well. His vehicle was hit twice by vehicles going around the corner too fast. There were no parking issues when Pater Realty owned the apartment building. Now it is owned by Red Oak and they have a new policy that prohibits non-residents from parking in their private parking lot. Red Oak routinely tows vehicles from their private parking lot and now visitors of the apartment building park outside the apartment complex along Fenway Street on a daily basis.

Mr. Batchelder is asking that parking be banned on both sides of the street due to safety hazards particularly East bound.

Alan Côté asked Chief Gagnon if he was aware of any difficulty with fire apparatus. Chief Gagnon was not aware of any issues but said that if parking was banned to 3 Fenway Street, then it would be a straight away.

Mr. Batchelder stated that there is off street parking from East Broadway toward Grove, the other side does not.

Mike Gagnon asked if this was a constant issue now. Mr. Batchelder stated that the parking is more of an issue along the apartment side versus the duplex side. Alan Côté stated that he would be reluctant to ban parking on both sides of the street due to visitors needing a place to park. If there is a one-sided parking ban, that would allow emergency apparatus and school buses to pass.

Mr. Batchelder stated that he understands and respects the above and that at one time the Town considered making Fenway a one-way street and he was opposed at that time. The safety issues are the larger reason he is here today. He himself would also be affected by parking bans. He stated that there are temporary parking bans when there are events in Town. However, the parking bans are only usually up through the corners.

Chief Garone stated that he drives down the street every day and that the situation Mr. Batchelder describes is very accurate and Fenway Street is used as a shortcut. Mr. Batchelder stated that it can be startling to travel North bound on Fenway as you make the turn to accommodate parked vehicles as you are suddenly in the travel lane with oncoming vehicles coming toward you in the opposite direction.

The duplexes on the corner near East Broadway are as problematic. Chief Garone stated that the Derry Police Department is not tagging cars overnight. Parking is a problem throughout Town, but Fenway Street is curvy and narrow. A solution may be to have parking 5 feet of the edge of pavement, as it does not obstruct traffic and would accommodate visitors. Alan Côté stated that is someone parks their vehicle on the grass that it may be considered trespassing on private property.

Mr. Batchelder asked if the GIS was accurate, his house was built in 1901. He stated that his neighbors at 4 Fenway Street have boulders along their property and people park at their own peril.

Randall Chase stated that Red Oak started towing vehicles from the lawn.

Jim Roddy asked if there are any accommodations for snowbanks. Randall Chase stated that they parked on the lawn on Fenway. Jim Roddy stated that they started parking on the right of way. Jim Roddy asked what the parking spaces were per ratio? Mr. Batchelder stated that the Red Oak parking lot is filled 2/3 at a maximum. Jim Roddy stated that his opinion is that Red Oak cannot just wash their hands of the issue, if there is a past practice. Mr. Batchelder stated that he had an unproductive first call to Red Oak. Chief Gagnon stated that this situation is similar to Silvestri Circle. Jim Roddy stated that that issue cured itself as the mother and daughter pleaded to the condo association. The Highway Safety Committee did not make a motion to approach Hillside Estates.

Jim Roddy recommends that Mr. Batchelder contact Red Oak.

Chief Garone asked if there is enough parking per resident. Alan Côté stated that with new site plans that parking has to be adequate as far as parking spaces. Chief Garone wondered if they allow visitors to park in their resident spots. Randall Chase stated that often a permit is required on private property.

Randall Chase stated that the road is narrow and that even with parking only on one side of the street, the vehicles will still be in the travel lane.

Mr. Batchelder stated that a parking ban in front of the apartments would not fix the issue as the issue is really the curve. When traveling from Grove toward East Broadway, when someone is parking in front of the duplexes, the vehicles have to move to the middle of the street and that is really where the hard breaking comes into play. He lives in the first house next to the entrance to the apartment building. He stated that there is off street parking at 3 Fenway Street.

Alan Côté asked if we wanted to table this issue or measure the distances.

Randall Chase stated that a partial parking ban will clog the entrance. Jim Roddy asked if there is a time of day that this is worse when he could observe the site. Mr. Batchelder stated that summertime is the worst as the children are outside as well and they play basketball in the street. Jim Roddy asked if there were the same regulars parking on the street and that is different than the general public. Chief Garone stated that they are repeat offenders and they are visitors of the apartments.

Chief Gagnon asked if we would just be pushing the parking problem down the road. He stated that Red Oak created this issue. Alan Côté stated that the Highway Safety Committee is an advisory board and cannot control private property policies. Chief Gagnon stated that while we are addressing Part A, that he thinks that Part B will be residents from down the street may be here next asking for relief as well. Mr. Batchelder stated that at most there are 4 vehicles. Chief Garone stated that there is parking for residents. Chief Garone stated that there is a chance a ban may move the vehicles down the street, or the visitors may find alternative parking.

Alan Côté stated that the Highway Safety Committee will draft a letter to the Town Council. The motion made by Alan Côté is that parking be prohibited along the westerly side of Fenway

beginning at East Broadway to the property line of #1 and #3 Fenway Street and on the easterly side beginning 200 feet from East Broadway to the property line of #6 and #8 Fenway. Walter Deyo seconded the motion.

Motion passed (9-0), all in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

Site Focus for the Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission:

Jim Roddy indicated that unfortunately he was unable to connect with Scott Savard regarding the potential grants for road safety improvement through the Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission.

Chief Garone stated most accidents are caused by driver error and rarely from the topography of the land. One exception is when traveling westerly on 102, as the road drops out of site and has abrupt turns, near J & F Farms up to Old Auburn Road. Discussion ensued regarding a motorcycle fatality this fall.

Chief Gagnon suggested that the site be from Chester Road from Regency to Hickory.

Alan Côté made a motion to recommend to the Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission that the Highway Safety Committee recommends priority from Hickory Drive westerly to 200 feet to Regency Drive.

Randall Chase stated that it would be nice if this could tie into the 4A project as far as having the equipment already out there. Chief Garone suggested that the area be expanded from Hickory Drive to Tsienneto Road (102).

Bowers Road:

Alan Côté stated upon further review that he measured the shortest site distance at 245 feet and that it is adequate. For a 110-foot tunnel/culvert, the cost is estimated at \$500,000 to \$700,000 and that the road has about 900 vehicles per day. Alan Côté passed around a picture with Windham Road in the background and Fordway facing forward.

Jim Roddy stated for that price you could buy a bridge for By-Pass 28 for Pinkerton Academy. Alan Côté would like the motion “to forward the concern and explore replacing the steel culvert with a box culvert as a permanent fix” to be reconsidered.

Chief Garone asked if there was any way to bring the issue to the Town Council without a Highway Safety Committee recommendation. Alan Côté stated residents can go directly to the Town Council and that the committee should write a letter to Mr. Rod Pierce, resident of 26 Bowers Road that the Highway Safety Committee has reconsidered its prior motion.

Chief Garone made the motion to reconsider.

Seconded by Walter Deyo.

Motion passed (9-0), all in favor.

The motion is back on the table. All in favor of the motion made by Randall Chase on November 21, 2019: “to forward the concern and explore replacing the steel culvert with a box culvert as a permanent fix”.

Discussion ensued that last month’s motion is not practical motion and given the 245-foot sight distance there is no safety issue from a Highway Safety Committee standpoint.

Motion “to forward the concern and explore replacing the steel culvert with a box culvert as a permanent fix” fails (1-8), with Ronald Goldwaithe voting yes.

**Alan Côté made a motion to adjourn at 10:24am.
Seconded by Randall Chase.**

Motion passed (9-0)

The next meeting is Thursday, January 16, 2020.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jill Jamro, Recording Clerk