

DERRY HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Minutes for May 20, 2021



COMMITTEE MEMBER	PRESENT	ABSENT
Scott Savard, Chairman	X	
Jim Roddy, Co-Chair	X Via Zoom	
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
Daniel Healey	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		

Mr. Justin Mitchell – 22 Goodhue Road – present via Zoom.

A monthly meeting of the Derry Highway Safety Committee was held on Thursday, May 20, 2021 at the Derry Municipal Center. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the April 15, 2021 meeting were reviewed.

Dan Healey made a motion to approve the April 15, 2021 minutes as written.

Seconded by Ron Goldthwaite.

MOTION PASSED (5–0). Scott Savard, Alan Côté, and Chief Garone abstained from voting as they were not present for the April meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1) Selecting officers for this upcoming year.

Jill Jamro, Recording Clerk, asked if there were any nominations for Chair. Ron Goldthwaite nominated Scott Savard as Chair, seconded by Chief Garone.

MOTION PASSED (8-0)

Jill Jamro asked if there were any nominations for Co-Chair. Scott Savard nominated Dan Healey as Co-Chair, seconded by Alan Côté.

MOTION PASSED (8-0)

No other nominations were made.

- 2) Mr. Justin Mitchell – 22 Goodhue Road – requested that the speed be lower than 35 mph if not for all of Goodhue Road, at least near his property. He is concerned for his son's safety and is requesting warning street signs such as "Children at Play". He is seeking any signage that would help slow down traffic.

Scott Savard read the agenda regarding 22 Goodhue Road. Mr. Justin Mitchell indicated that they have three children and one with special needs. The current speed limit is 35 mph now, he is seeking for the speed limit to be lowered and is requesting signage.

Alan Côté explained that he set up a traffic counter recently. The traffic counter results show that at the 85th % of motorists are exceeding the speed limit at 42.95 mph (almost 8 miles over the speed limit). At the 95th %, motorists are traveling at 46.96 mph. Alan Côté explained that speed limits are typically set the 85th %. In New Hampshire, rural speed limits are 35 mph and downtown the speed limit is 30 mph. Studies have shown that signs become background noise. For example, a "Slow Children" sign without any evidence of children becomes background noise versus children that are playing basketball daily, motorists will take note. Unfortunately, a sign may give a false sense of security. Alan Côté stated that he noticed that the backyard is fenced in at 22 Goodhue Road.

Chief Garone explained that the speeds that the traffic counter capture are not the type of speeds that get convicted in court. Over 90% of these speeding violations are not summonsable. Chief Garone asked Mr. Justin Mitchell if it is his assessment that most of the traffic is repetitive. Mr. Justin Mitchell stated yes.

Chief Garone stated that the Derry Police Department have flashing lights that are portable. They are live, they react to the oncoming traffic, and they are located now at different parts of town. He

stated that the portable flashing lights are put on a speed limit sign. Chief Garone asked Mr. Justin Mitchell if there was a speed limit sign near this property.

Chief Garone stated that the flashing lights would not be left on Goodhue Road permanently. He asked Mr. Justin Mitchell if there was a direction where motorists appeared to be traveling at a faster speed? Northerly? Southerly?

Mr. Justin Mitchell stated that as the motorists head toward Route 28.

Chief Gagnon arrived at the meeting at 9:15 am.

Mr. Justin Mitchell asked if the flashing lights record the speeds, and Chief Garone stated that it has the capability of recording speeds.

Mr. Justin Mitchell stated that he imagined “Children at Play” signs and would like the speed limit lowered in front of his house for his peace of mind. He further stated that he appreciates anything that the Highway Safety Committee can offer.

Ron Goldthwaite asked with direction is worse. Alan Côté stated that he can see which traffic as there are different reports that he can pull from the traffic counter data. Scott Savard asked if the flashing light can be installed on other roads entering this collector street. Alan Côté replied that typically they are not put on every block.

Scott Savard asked if this had times of traffic? Alan Côté replied that other reports can be generated but there is not a huge disparity over the speed limit by 7.95%. He further explained that this area is a straight away with great visibility and motorists travel to the road conditions. If there was a curve, motorists tend to slow down.

Mr. Justin Mitchell left the Zoom meeting.

3) Scott Savard – Highway Safety Committee Chairman – roadside parking alongside 94 East Broadway.

Scott Savard asked why the roadside parking is so prevalent now. Alan Côté stated that when the street was resurfaced, the fog line was moved. This area is not marked as non-parking. Alan Côté would make the recommendation to prohibit parking on the southerly side from Fenway in an easterly direction for 1400 feet to basically opposite Hood Road. The fog line to the curb is six feet and there is enough room to park a vehicle. The downtown area has nine feet.

Chief Gagnon asked why this is an issue now. Alan Côté stated that there is no on street parking allowed there during the winter. The property management company has been towing people. Jill Jamro confirmed this as a resident just called about being towed yesterday and she had explained that this is private property, and that the Town does not have any jurisdiction regarding their parking lot.

Chief Garone stated that his happened quickly. Someone started parking their vehicle on the westerly side of the brick apartments and then other people started parking there too. There is no ordinance so there was no action that the Derry Police Department could take. This parking

presents a danger for pedestrians and oncoming traffic and for larger vehicles travelling in an easterly direction. Scott Savard stated that this would make it difficult for emergency apparatus to clear the area.

Chief Garone stated that people park their vehicles in travel portions of most streets. A vehicle is unlawfully parked if it is parked in a travel portion. This issue occurs on other streets such as Wilson and on Franklin, motorists wait and yield to each other.

Chief Gagnon stated that motorists park on East Broadway for events at MacGregor Park and that has never been an issue before. Alan Côté explained that this started within the past two months.

Scott Savard asked when the apartments were built and Alan Côté stated in the 1970's.

Scott Savard asked about the residents on Hillside Estates on Chester Road. Alan Côté stated that the condo association's by-laws do not have to be approved by the Town. The residents at 94 East Broadway may have a new property management company.

Chief Garone stated that on he would propose a parking ban on both sides of East Broadway. He is thinking of this from the enforcement side. He stated that the statute allows the Derry Police Department to waive the parking ban during special events and concerts.

Alan Côté made a motion to prohibit parking along the south side of East Broadway from Park Ave to the traffic circle and from the traffic circle along the north side to Marlboro Road.

Seconded by Dan Healey.

MOTION PASSED (9-0).

Scott Savard can present this agenda item to the Town Council.

Jill Jamro to draft the staff report.

Alan Côté made a motion to adjourn at 9:35 am.

Seconded by Dan Healey.

MOTION PASSED (9-0).

The next meeting is Thursday, June 17, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jill Jamro, Recording Clerk