

DERRY HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Minutes for March 17, 2022



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

In attendance:

Mr. James Intoppa, resident at 11 Gulf Road.

A monthly meeting of the Derry Highway Safety Committee was held on Thursday, March 17, 2022, at the Derry Municipal Center. The meeting was called to order by Daniel Healey at 9:03 am.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the December 16, 2021, meeting, were reviewed.

Daniel Healey made a motion to approve the December 16, 2021, minutes as written.

Seconded by Walter Deyo.

MOTION PASSED (4-0). David Eastman, George Feole, and Mike Fowler all abstained.

OLD BUSINESS

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- 1) Daniel Healey stated that he along with Randall Chase, Walter Deyo, Ronald Goldthwaite, and Scott Savard were reappointed for another one-year term. There is one vacancy. If you know of anyone that may be interested in serving, please refer them to the Town website.
- 2) Follow up regarding the request from Mrs. Jaclyn McPherson, 7 Sunset Ave, for crosswalks painted at South Range Elementary School and surrounding streets. This was brought forth at the September 16, 2021, meeting. At the November 18, 2021, meeting, the Highway Safety Committee recommended that DPW do a more in-depth analysis of pedestrian demand to the school. A vote is needed on this request now that we have received the walker data from the school.

Mike Fowler stated that Jane Simard provided a visual count of 25-30 walkers per day from the school secretary at South Range Elementary School. This request goes back to the fall of 2021. This is a question of perception versus real numbers. Does the number of walkers justify or warrant a midblock crosswalk? Based on the number of walkers, he is not sure that would merit a crosswalk. Drivers may be inattentive, as typically crosswalks are more apparent at an intersection. Derry Public Works would not move forward or recommend installing a crosswalk.

Walter Deyo asked if there were any sidewalks on either side of the street? The answer is no.

George Feole stated that give that there are limited walkers and no sidewalks, he would move to vote no.

Mike Fowler made a motion to take no action on the request and to not install a midblock crosswalk in this area.

Seconded by Daniel Healey.

MOTION PASSED (7-0).

NEW BUSINESS

- 1) Mr. James Intoppa – 11 Gulf Road – request to have a no thru trucking sign on Gulf Road.

Mr. James Intoppa stated that this is his second attempt to address his safety concern for Gulf Road. He stated that the first request was no thru trucking, but he was unable to make the July meeting. He stated that he has seen an increase in the number of tractor trailer trucks cutting through from Island Pond Road to Gulf Road to Route 111. Gulf Road has become a cut through for haulers, heavy equipment, and tractor trailer trucks. He stated that tractor trailer drivers must cross the road corners and they are unable to stay in their own lane while turning. He stated that coming up from Salem to Ermer Road, there is a dangerous left-hand turn onto Route 111 (where the speed is 50 mph) which led to a fatality.

Mr. James Intoppa stated that there are no businesses on Gulf Road. He is requesting to keep the tractor trailer and equipment trucks on Island Pond Road to head directly onto Route 111 at the

traffic light. He stated that his neighbor stated that there used to be a no thru trucking sign on Gulf Road, is that correct?

Mike Fowler replied not at the Salem end.

Ronald Goldthwaite stated he drove in that area recently, and that there was heavy traffic but not as busy as Tsienneto Road. He stated that there have been discussions in the past and that the Town cannot exclude trucks on the roadway.

Mr. James Intoppa asked about excluding trucks on a residential road.

Ronald Goldthwaite replied that on a national basis, no thru trucking is not enforceable.

Mr. James Intoppa asked what about if it makes sense to keep the tractor trailer trucks off a residential road. Discussion ensued about tractor trailers and their freedom to drive nationally.

Walter Deyo deferred to Mike Fowler. Mike Fowler stated that DPW follows “A Hard Road to Travel” publication from the NH Municipal Association. It is an overview of NH laws of local highways, streets, and trails. DPW uses their guidance for weight limits (seasonal – such as Gulf Road, Goodhue Road, and Cemetery Road) and no thru trucking. If there is a weight restriction on a road, there needs to be an engineering reason or justification. In Derry, we have invested in our roadways. There are seasonal postings that went into effect on February 28, 2022, and will end in late April or early May, depending on the weather conditions.

Mike Fowler stated that there is a general precedent that truckers pay local registration taxes, and gas taxes and that DPW cannot restrict traffic on a certain vehicle classification. There are other towns that have no thru trucking signs, but they may be illegal. If appealed to the Supreme court, the plaintiff would win the case. He provided historical data from 2005-2008 when the state highway limited the weight of a vehicle to 80,000 pounds before the widening of Interstate 93. The truck drivers at that time, typically weighing 99,000 pounds, would get off the highway and use Exit 3 and by-pass Interstate 93 through Derry. Downtown roads also cannot restrict vehicles based on classification. The only way to implement a no thru trucking area, is if a road base is insufficient, with engineering data to back up the claim. If one road has no thru trucking signage, that leaves the town open for someone to challenge.

Ronald Goldthwaite stated that he had asked the same questions in the past.

Captain Feole stated that the Town has always taken a cautious approach regarding restricting the use of roadways. The Town has not restricted the roadways due to liability.

Mike Fowler stated that marking the roadways with double yellow lines has brought other residents forth that are not in favor of them or fog lines, as their preference is to keep the look of “rural” roads. If the speed limit is posted at 35 mph, unfortunately, many motorists do not obey the speed limit. The Derry Police Department can use targeted enforcement or use the signalized signs, to slow motorists down. Other town no thru trucking signs must have either met an engineering threshold or it may be illegal signage.

Mr. James Intoppa stated that he is noticing wear on the sides of the road where the trucks cannot make the full turn, such as Continental Paving with a full load of asphalt. His concern is that the trucks will be unable to stop to make the corner. He would like to see the trucks remain on Island Pond Road and keep some trucks off Gulf Road.

Mike Fowler stated that there are a few prevalent vendors for Weber. He stated that it may be worth it for DPW to reach out to Junior at Weber. He cannot promise anything, but he can have his Transfer Station Crew Chief do some outreach.

Mr. James Intoppa replied that the tractor trailers are coming up from Massachusetts, and that there is no problem with Weber.

Mike Fowler stated that you would think Continental Paving would stick to major roads.

Randall Chase stated that the metal haulers are coming up from Connecticut. GPS may take them the shortest route and that he would not take a tractor trailer on Gulf Road.

Captain Feole stated that DPW could ask Junior at Weber to advise the tractor trailer drivers to remain on Island Pond Road. Mike Fowler stated that DPW would make an inquiry and ask for his help in lessening the volume of tractor trailer trucks on Gulf Road. DPW has had success in the past just by asking. Let us try this measure first, there is no formal motion needed.

Mr. James Intoppa was asked to email Jill Jamro if he notices less trucks over the next few months or if the situation does not improve.

Captain Feole made a motion to table this item indefinitely.

Seconded by Walter Deyo.

MOTION PASSED (7-0).

- 2) Mr. Philip Salkowski – Broadway Chiropractic - 72 West Broadway – safety concern for West Broadway @ Elm Street & West Everett. Request to have additional signage or narrowing of the lane of West Broadway heading into Derry.

Daniel Healey stated that he drives this road every day and he has not witnessed any accidents. He asked Captain Feole about accident history. Captain Feole stated that he has not done a traffic study. He stated that Mr. Szalowski's letter references a recent accident.

Captain Feole stated that traffic going around to the right is a lawful movement allowed by statute. Motorists are allowed to pass on the right, provided the road is wide enough to pass. Captain Feole stated that narrowing the roadway is the wrong approach and would result in an increase of accidents and rear end accidents. Traffic would quickly backup to the light at Fordway.

Ronald Goldthwaite asked if you are allowed to pass on the right, past the fog line. Captain Feole answered yes.

Daniel Healey stated that everyone passes on the right when motorists are taking a left onto Elm Street.

Mike Fowler mentioned that creating a left turn pocket would require an eleven-foot lane, which is the minimum standard from the double yellow lines. It would move the fog line out to the curb. This is not a high accident location.

Motorists traveling in the opposite direction toward Fordway, are courteous and often leave a space for motorists taking a left onto Elm Street from West Broadway.

Randall Chase stated that the issue here is motorists turning left from West Everett onto West Broadway. He stated that they need to use caution and ensure that the traffic in both directions is clear before pulling out.

Mike Fowler made a motion to take no action and that the Highway Safety Committee will continue to monitor the area, no geometric changes proposed.

Seconded by Captain Feole.

MOTION PASSED (7-0).

Mike Fowler reminded the committee that at the April meeting, they will need to select the Chair and Co-Chair positions.

Daniel Healey made a motion to adjourn at 9:34am.

Seconded by Randal Chase.

MOTION PASSED (7-0).

The next meeting is Thursday, April 21, 2022 @ 9am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jill Jamro, Recording Clerk