

DERRY HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Minutes for April 21, 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 Via Zoom	
Jeremy Lamothe (School Dept Alt)	X	
Patti Doyle (School Dept Alt)		
George Feole (Police Alt)	X	
Jim Richardson (Fire Alt)	X	
Mike Fowler (DPW Alt)	X	
Vern Thomas		

In attendance:

Shayne Gendron (Edward N. Herbert Associates, Inc.)

Melissa Runde (Edward N. Herbert Associates, Inc.)

Jason Plourde (VHB)

Tim Butterfield (property owner)

Jase Gregoire (Civilworks New England)

Mark Beaudry (Civilworks New England)

A monthly meeting of the Derry Highway Safety Committee was held on Thursday, April 21, 2021, at the Derry Municipal Center. The meeting was called to order at 9:03 am.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the March 17, 2022, meeting, were reviewed.

Captain Feole made a motion to approve the March 17, 2022, minutes as written.

Seconded by Daniel Healey. Alan Côté abstained.

MOTION PASSED (10-0).

OLD BUSINESS

Officer assignments for the appointed Highway Safety Committee members. Both officers asked to continue in their current roles, Scott Savard as Chairman and Daniel Healey, as Co-Chair.

Motion made by Captain George Feole to accept the current slate of officers. Seconded by Alan Côté.

MOTION PASSED (11-0).

NEW BUSINESS

- 1) Proposed West Running Brook Village Mixed Use Development at 2 Humphrey Road – site plan review.

Mr. Shayne Gendron explained the proposed plan consists of mixed use, commercial, and residential. The plan includes ninety-four apartment units. The front building is 16,000 square feet with a commercial use on the bottom. The top two floors will have apartments.

The back building is 70' X 336' which will have seventy-two apartment units and behind that will be eighteen townhomes.

The south parcel at 11, 200 square feet will be mixed commercial. It may become a restaurant, but there is nothing definite at this time.

The realignment of Humphrey Road will need to occur. They are meeting with the State of NH on this project. The goal is to have Humphrey Road align with the property's driveway across the street.

Mr. Jason Plourde explained that there was a meeting in October 2021 with NHDOT (NH Department of Transportation and the SNHPC (Southern NH Planning Commission.) There are two curb cuts, one South and one North at the intersection of Humphrey Road.

The traffic study contained many components and has been a collaborative effort detailing types of improvement, accommodating traffic volumes, and considering future development. Across the street, there is an inn that can hold up to two hundred people at its outside venue. The inn may impact traffic more on a Saturday than weekdays.

Traffic volume stats were adjusted in the morning and evening, during heavier commute times. NH DOT has permanent count stations and they used data from October 2019 through October 2021. Traffic factors are defined by NHDOT and were signed off on and a baseline construction was agreed upon.

NHDOT policy is to have traffic counts adjust to peak month conditions and to account for any traffic volumes that were impacted by the pandemic. There was a methodology used to determine volumes and impacts and were reviewed with the NHDOT. The results are more realistic of pre-pandemic conditions.

It was found that it is difficult for motorists exiting from Humphrey Road as it is windy and at an angle. The roadway will need to be straightened. Parties involved are the Town of Derry, the State of NH, and Mr. Butterfield who owns both sides of Humphrey Road.

Mr. Jason Plourde stated he wanted to be clear that they have not received any approvals from the State of NH or the Town of Derry and that these are traffic calming measures.

Southbound - taking a left onto Humphrey Road, meets the threshold for a turn lane.

Northbound – the property across the street does not meet MUTCD (Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices) eight-hour thresholds. The eight-hour thresholds do not have to be consecutive hours in a day.

Mr. Jason Plourde stated that he thinks it makes sense for two lanes off Humphrey Road. The critical intersection on North Main Street is a worst-case scenario.

Mike Fowler provided context. The first proposal will go before the TRC (Technical Review Committee) tomorrow morning. This is the conceptual phase. They keep an eye out for comments on Facebook, and recent comments were made regarding Watts and Rockingham Road. From the Town's perspective, potential developments such as the Clam Haven intersection are reviewed concurrently by our peer engineers as well as those from Hoyle, Tanner & Associates, Inc. If the Town is 100% developed, what is the impact? The developer comes in and upgrades an intersection. The Planning Board seeks funds from an escrowed developer account, where there is an incremental share of costs (Walmart for example).

The Town is cognizant of the other projects happening in town. Derry Public Works is actively involved in the review process.

Alan Côté asked about ADT's (average daily traffic counts) on Cemetery Road.

Mr. Jason Plourde stated that the traffic study assumed zero people and that the traveling on Humphrey Road eastbound is challenging. They all recognized challenges on Humphrey Road and focused on improving segments of Humphrey Road that are under their control.

A traffic signal may be warranted in the future. More people may travel from Cemetery Road to Island Pond Road.

Dan Healey asked if the entrance from Route 28 will be a right in and a right out?

Mr. Jason Plourde stated that it will be the same as other driveways. Both driveways will prohibit left-hand turns.

Ron Goldthwaite stated that the Highway Safety Committee understands that there are state regulations such as modified roadway intersections, driveway intersections, and turning radii.

Mr. Jason Plourde stated that access permits were applied for through the NHDOT. Since there is direct access onto a state highway, the plan must follow both state and local procedures at the same time.

Walter Deyo asked about extra traffic with parents bringing their children back and forth to school.

Mr. Jason Plourde stated that at the October 2021 meeting, weekday commuting times were discussed. Peak times such as 7-9am and 4-6pm were analyzed. They also extended the time in the afternoon to 1-6pm (the most heavily traveled time).

The area was looked at holistically, how does everything fit together? There is no need for sidewalks as the sidewalks will not lead to anything.

Mike Fowler stated that on Route 28, the Siragusa property when it initially came forward, there were questions about parallel parking on the west side. Both Derry Public Works and the Planning Departments keep an eye on the larger picture of development.

Scott Savard stated that if the development does go through, will there be a sidewalk to West Running Brook School. Do we need to table this? Mr. Jason Plourde answered that they will be creating a pathway to West Running Brook School.

Mike Fowler explained that the initial phase is for the TRC (Technical Review Committee) to complete a site plan review before the Planning Board moves forward.

Alan Côté stated that the Highway Safety Committee reviews plans to see if it will impact our roadways. For example, does the realignment of Humphrey Road concern the Highway Safety Committee? A left shared lane makes perfect sense and will result in less queuing.

Dan Healey asked about abutters. Alan Côté stated that the Planning Board notifies the abutters.

Alan Côté asked if there are any objections. With none, Alan Côté stated that Jill Jamro will send the draft minutes to the Planning Board, that the Highway Safety Committee reviewed the plans and had no objections from a Highway Safety standpoint.

**Mike Fowler made a motion to adjourn at 9:34 am.
Seconded by Walter Deyo.**

MOTION PASSED (11-0).

The next meeting is Thursday, May 19, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jill Jamro, Recording Clerk