

## **DERRY HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Minutes for September 15, 2022



<b>COMMITTEE MEMBER</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
Scott Savard, Chairman	X	
Daniel Healey, Co-Chair via Zoom	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)	X	
Mike Fowler (DPW Alt)		
Vern Thomas		

In attendance for 109 Rockingham Road:  
Mr. Doug MacGuire – The Dubai Group.  
Mr. Rob Woodland (Project Engineer).

A monthly meeting of the Derry Highway Safety Committee was held on Thursday, September 15, 2022, at the Derry Municipal Center. The meeting was called to order at 9:04am.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from the August 18, 2022, meeting, were reviewed.

**Alan Côté made a motion to approve the August 18, 2022, minutes as written.**  
**Seconded by Dan Healey.**

**MOTION PASSED (9–0).**

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- 
- 1) Mr. Joel Rosen – 5 Field Road – request to perform a safety study to determine whether the no-parking zone should extend to both sides of Pond Road.

David Eastman stated that the area is congested but there is no hindrance for equipment apparatus. Alan Côté stated that vehicles are parked on the gravel and not in the travel lane. Deputy Chief George Feole stated that after the July meeting, he had officers patrol the area and they found no violations on Pond Road. No one was parking in the no parking zone. Plenty of vehicles were parked alongside the road in the permissible area. The consensus of the Highway Safety Committee is that there is no action to be taken.

- 2) Mr. Mike Stankus – 9 Olesen Road – request to have a stop sign installed at the end of Belle Brook Lane @ Olesen Road. Sight distances to be measured.

Alan Côté stated that he cleared one tree if you are looking toward the right. He measured the sight distance from 15 feet back. Deputy Chief George Feole examined accident data for a 5-year period, from 8/1/2017 through 8/21/2022. There was one accident that occurred in September 2020, that was due to obstruction of operators view, and has nothing to do with the intersection. Alan Côté stated that there is no need to add a sign in this area. Deputy Chief Feole concurs. Alan Côté stated that the consensus of the Highway Safety Committee is that there is no action to be taken.

- 3) Ms. Mary Donnelly (Brennan & Amy Donnelly) – request to have any type of warning for vehicles to slow down before the hill on Walnut Hill Road traveling southbound toward Cross Road. Sight distances to be measured.

Alan Côté stated that the site distance exceeds 225 feet. There is also a sign warning of the upcoming intersection. Deputy Chief George Feole stated that Cross Road is 800 to 1,000 feet from Adams Pond Road. The consensus of the Highway Safety Committee is that there is no action to be taken.

Ronald Goldthwaite stated that he noticed some brush, and that if there was a sidewalk there that would be an obstruction from the driveway. Alan Côté stated that would be for the property owner to maintain.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

---

- 1) Mr. John R. Sweeney – 5 Tsienneto Road #46 – request to have a pedestrian light somewhere across Tsienneto Road between the post office and Crystal Ave, at the main Sunview Condo entrance or the Derry Medical Center.

Mr. Sweeney stated that he has lived at this address for 35 years. He did receive an email on 8/23/2022 from Mike Fowler, Public Works Director, that there are no plans for a mid-way block. Mr. Sweeney stated that his doctor is right across the street, and that he walks to the post office. He stated that he has 41 signatures from neighbors that would like a crosswalk along Tsienneto Road. He stated that vehicles are consistently speeding at 50 mph and that is too fast for him to walk across the street. If a light cannot be installed, at least a marked crosswalk. He stated that if anyone

gets killed and it is found that the residents wanted a crosswalk, they will sue the Town of Derry as there is no safe place to cross.

Alan Côté stated that mid-block crosswalks are not recommended. More pedestrians are stuck in a marked crosswalk than an unmarked crosswalk. Crosswalks are installed at signalized intersections or non-signalized intersections. At the post office, there is a signalized intersection at Betley Chevrolet. Deputy Chief George Feole stated that Mr. Sweeney would benefit from using the light and the crosswalk. The final design of the project is not out yet.

Alan Côté stated that crosswalks are not installed to control the speed of traffic. Mr. Sweeney stated that motorists are traveling at least 50mph. Alan Côté stated that sometimes it is perception of speed.

Alan Côté stated that higher volumes of traffic will result from the 4A project and the last thing you would want to install is a mid-block crosswalk.

Scott Savard asked when Tsienneto Road is being redone. It is anticipated in 2024 or 2025. Deputy Chief Feole stated that Phase II is at least two years out.

Alan Côté recommends that Mr. Sweeney drive or walk down to Betley Chevrolet to safely cross Tsienneto Road. Deputy Chief George Feole stated that a mid-block is not advisable.

**Motion made by Alan Côté to install a mid-block crosswalk in the vicinity of Sun View Condos across southerly to northerly on Tsienneto Road. Seconded by Deputy Chief George Feole.**

Discussion: Ron Goldthwaite stated that where Pinkerton Street comes across, he (Mr. Sweeney) would have to cross Pinkerton Street and with no marked crosswalks, he would have to walk toward Shaw's. Randall Chase stated that crosswalks do not increase safety. Alan Côté stated that it sounds crazy but that a marked crosswalk provides a false sense of security and that more pedestrians are struck in crosswalks.

**MOTION FAILED (0-9).**

- 2) Site Review – 109 Rockingham Road – The Dubai Group – Mr. Doug MacGuire and Mr. Rob Woodland (Project Engineer).

Mr. Doug MacGuire stated that a quick conceptual overview was given to the Planning Board. They went to the TRC a couple of times, and they had to shift the main access drive.

This will be a multi-story, mixed use building. This is the former site of a junkyard at Bedard Ave and Rockingham Road, there is a lot of grade. The first-floor parking garage will be built into the hill. There is an access point with a bump out for a restaurant. The second-floor access will have three floors of residential above that with an elevator. In the back they will have garage under townhouses, they are taking advantage of the slope.

Mr. Doug MacGuire stated that concerns were brought forth about queuing at the entrance. There are exclusive left and right turns coming out of the driveway. Mr. Rob Woodland stated that the

area warrants a left turn lane. The relocation of the driveway is further away from Bedard Ave and there is sufficient deceleration. The left onto Bedard Ave meets the warrants into existing conditions.

The access to the development is making improvements to Winter Hill Road. There will be a separate left. There is a 2,000-foot center line gradient. The shoulder width is 5 feet. The sight distance at this location is phenomenal. There is one continuous curve of 2,000 feet.

Fire Chief Richardson asked if there was any consideration made for a second egress.

Mr. Doug MacGuire answered that originally the drive access was closer to Bedard Ave and there was a second point of access. With the proposed driveway, there is no way to allow for the exclusive left turn lane. There is no safe or clean way to do the left turn lane. Once the driveway moves, the site drops 10 feet, and cannot catch up to Bedard Ave. There is no ability to add a second access. They did upsize some radii, so vehicles can loop and back up and turn around.

Fire Chief Richardson stated that there are a couple of issues. If there is an accident at the intersection, vehicles cannot get out and could be blocked by fire apparatus.

Mr. Doug MacGuire stated that the issues were brought up the TRC. There are two 11-foot exit lanes and one 14 foot receiving lane. There is a loading area adjacent to the sidewalk that is out of the path of travel. The restaurant deliveries will be at off peak hours and early in the morning. They recognize two accesses for life safety, and they widened access as much as possible

Mr. Rob Woodland explained that the original driveway was much closer to Bedard Ave. They would hope that accidents at this location would be rare, and they do not anticipate any queuing issues during peak hours.

Randall Chase stated that the Master Plan regarding West Running Brook, that they may get hit hard as they must connect with the Fairways, Alexander Carr Park, etc. This may be a rough spot in front of Planning as this is part of the village district.

Mr. Rob Woodland stated that this would include a bike plan and they are building out a section of corridor for bikes. Mr. Doug MacGuire stated that there was not an exclusive left onto Winter Hill Road. Alan Côté stated that Winter Hill Road did not warrant a left turn at the time.

Mr. Doug MacGuire stated that they are carrying improvement further than they want to, but they did not want to create an accordion effect. There is more room on the right-hand side of the road.

Alan Côté asked what they were doing on the shoulder onto Bedard Ave to protect the buildings and motorists coming down. Mr. Doug MacGuire will have to evaluate, the goal is to keep the edge and they might look at something else.

Deputy Chief George Feole asked about guardrails. Mr. Doug MacGuire stated that is possible due to grading.

Alan Côté stated that Rockingham Road looks solid.

David Eastman stated that they have found that things like tractor trailer vehicles do not end up as planned. Alan Côté asked what is the radius turning? Mr. Doug MacGuire replied that their typical delivery trucks will be box trucks and they do not anticipate 18 wheelers. David Eastman stated that a 34-foot box truck is a tractor trailer. Mr. Doug MacGuire stated that the refrigerator box trucks will be alley docking and will not have a conflict and will not be backing out onto Rockingham Road.

**Motion made by Alan Côté that Jill Jamro, Recording Clerk, will send the draft meeting minutes to the Planning Board that the Highway Safety Committee has reviewed the site plans. Seconded by Deputy Chief George Feole. No further action to be taken.**

**MOTION PASSED (9–0).**

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

---

- 1) Jill Jamro, Recording Clerk, suggested that the Highway Safety Minutes be taken on a rotating (quarterly) basis amongst the various secretaries (Fire, Police, and DPW). The Highway Safety is an advisory board that represents various departments. Jill will still be the point of contact, will interact with the public and handle all emails regarding site plan reviews, and will email out the agendas, etc. However, to be more equitable it would be helpful if other employees stepped forward to help take meeting minutes. A sign-up sheet will be emailed out with the October's agenda.
- 2) Scott Savard stated that he received a call from a resident on Daniel Road about construction vehicles, speeding, and children. The road is now open and no longer a cul-de-sac. Alan Côté stated that traveling on the road may reach 15mph. It is a truly short, wide road. Scott Savard stated that this could be an example of perception of speed. Scott Savard was asked for reduced speed limit signs. Alan Côté stated that there will be granite curbs which will decrease the width of the road. Deputy Chief Feole recommends that speed data is gathered. Alan Côté to put out a traffic counter for a week to collect traffic data.

**Alan Côté made a motion to adjourn at 10:01am.  
Seconded by Deputy Chief George Feole.**

**MOTION PASSED (9–0).**

The next meeting is Thursday, October 20, 2022, at 9am.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jill Jamro, Recording Clerk