

DERRY HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Minutes for February 16, 2023



COMMITTEE MEMBER	PRESENT	ABSENT
Scott Savard, Chairman	X	
Daniel Healey, Co-Chair		X
George Feole, 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)		
(Police Alt)		
Jim Richardson (Fire Alt)		X
Shawn Haggart (Fire Alt)	X	
Mike Fowler (DPW Alt)		X
Vern Thomas (Derry Police)	X	

In attendance via Zoom:

Captain Vern Thomas

Mrs. Lindsay Clapp – 3 Barkland Drive.

A monthly meeting of the Derry Highway Safety Committee was held on Thursday, February 16, 2023, at the Derry Municipal Center. The meeting was called to order at 9:02am.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the December 15, 2022, meeting, were reviewed.

**Alan Côté made a motion to approve the December 15, 2022, minutes as written.
Seconded by Chief George Feole.**

MOTION PASSED (8-0).

OLD BUSINESS

1) Seeking confirmation that Derry Fire will cover note taking in July, August, and September 2023. David Eastman indicated that this will be confirmed once Chief Richardson returns from vacation.

2) Mrs. Lindsay Clapp – 3 Barkland Drive – request for a blinking crosswalk/stop sign on Tsienneto Road between Barkland Drive & Scenic Drive. Alan Côté was to try to verify with the DOT if there are any pedestrian provisions and see if there are any stop gap measures that can be implemented. Tabled from the December meeting.

Alan Côté indicated that there are no crossings proposed with Exit 4A. He believed that the sight distance for the sidewalk along the northly side (Jeff Lane) will be limited improvement. On Scenic Drive & Beaver Road there will be improvement to the alignment of the road.

Chief Feole asked for the time period for this project. Alan Côté answered in 2026 at the earliest. He stated that he cannot recommend a crosswalk there. He recommends that pedestrians walk to Beaver Road to cross where the line of sight is better.

Mrs. Clapp stated that she wants to ensure that site visits did occur. She also stated that she can tell teenagers to walk to Beaver Road to cross but that they won't listen.

Alan Côté stated that he looked at the intersection and unfortunately, there are no stop gap measures.

Mrs. Clapp asked about the traffic and that she routinely sees police at the church, but they do not extend down to the blind curves. She stated that a lot of people cross over quite frequently. Mrs. Clapp stated that she is looing for how to enhance safety in the area.

Chief Feole stated that he was looking to confirm the request for crossings at blind crossings? Mrs. Clapp explained that when you are exiting Barkland Drive and taking a right, your ability has to be quick. You cannot see if you are taking a left at Barkland Drive & Tsienneto Road. Scenic & Tsienneto it is blind from left and right.

Alan Côté stated that there will be improvements on Scenic Drive & Beaver Road. He knows that some pedestrians walk down Fieldstone.

Chief Feole stated that he has not done an examination or research on the road. He can run an examination report spanning the last three years for Beaver Road, Scenic Drive & Barkland Drive and provide the information at the next meeting. Chief Feole thanked Mrs. Clapp for bringing her concerns forward and encouraged her to join the Highway Safety Committee as a citizen member, if she wanted. Jill Jamro to email Mrs. Clapp the volunteer form.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1) Mr. Dennis Brasher – owner of Paisano’s Pizzeria at 4 Chester Road – safety concerns due to accidents in the area. Requesting the installation of a flashing pedestrian signal at the crosswalk/bike path @ Thornton Street and Chester Road and improved lighting.

Mr. Brasher stated that on the cross path at Thornton Street & Chester Road he has seen many near misses of pedestrians. He was struck by a vehicle himself and an employee was also struck on a separate occasion in 2021 which resulted in a concussion with lasting health conditions. Vehicles are traveling way too fast in the area.

Alan Côté stated that they can’t do flashing lights. The cost for the lights on Main Street and in the downtown area were \$15,000 each. They can look at putting crosswalk signs on the pavement. Unfortunately, it is proven statistically that more people are struck in marked crosswalks.

Mr. Brasher stated that he disagrees and that many drivers are distracted with texting and are completely oblivious to pedestrians. He stated the drivers have their foot to the floor and he is suggesting more time evaluating the area. Just recently he witnessed a child halfway through the crosswalk and a truck approached and did not stop at all. The child had to run through the intersection to avoid being struck. This area is very dangerous. He is at the location all the time for work. Mr. Brasher recommends that along with signs, that lighting be improved in the area as the light at the crosswalk is very dim.

Scott Savard stated that pedestrian signs do exist there, but the traffic circle has so many things going on that drivers may not even notice them. The crosswalks are not striped and not cross hatched.

Chief Feole recommends in addition to cross hatching the crosswalk, that something be done before the approach.

Alan Côté stated that they can look at the walking man. Chief Feole asked when the cross hatch and walking man symbol could be painted. Alan Côté replied most likely in June. Mr. Brasher stated that anything would be an improvement.

Mrs. Clapp asked about the history of accidents at the rotary. Chief Feole answered that a 10 year history report was conducted, out of 170 accidents, only one was considered serious bodily injury (a motorcyclist was hit by a truck). Mrs. Clapp replied that her first thought when making a request of the Highway Safety Committee (HSC), was nope, we’ve done this, or we’ve done that already. She stated that she calls the rotary the circle of death.

Scott Savard stated that the HSC has looked at the rotary multiple times, for several years. They have gone through this exercise countless times. With Exit 4A, we will see how it plays out as far as a reduction in usage at the rotary. The HSC has reviewed signs, lights, possible islands, etc. on a regular basis, for as long as he has been a citizen member of the committee.

Mrs. Clapp asked if they have solar enabled crosswalks and if we could partner with the state, maybe Net Zero coupled with transportation. Scott Savard stated that the lights are solar. Alan Côté stated that the Town pays the bill for fully signalized intersections. There are no federal dollars based on energy at this time. He further explained that the more lights that are installed, the less effective they become.

Chief Feole asked if we could steer the topic back to the agenda item.

Motion made by Chief Feole that he recommends that Derry Public Works examine the area and that the Highway Department implement roadway markings consistent to other crosswalks in the spring, when possible. Seconded by Alan Côté.

MOTION PASSED (8–0).

**Alan Côté made a motion to adjourn at 9:31am.
Seconded by Chief George Feole.**

MOTION PASSED (8–0).

The next meeting is Thursday, March 16, 2023, at 9am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jill Jamro, Recording Clerk