

DERRY HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Minutes for March 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:

Mr. Dave Fenstermacher (VHB) and two other staff members.

Via Zoom:

Dr. Timothy Powers - Headmaster at Pinkerton Academy.

A monthly meeting of the Derry Highway Safety Committee was held on Thursday, March 16, 2023, at the Derry Municipal Center. The meeting was called to order at 9:01am.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the February 16, 2023, meeting, were reviewed.

Alan Côté made a motion to approve the February 16, 2023, minutes as written.

Seconded by Randall Chase.

MOTION PASSED (8–0). Two abstained, Randall Chase & Captain Thomas.

OLD BUSINESS

1) Seeking confirmation that Derry Fire will cover note taking in July, August, and September 2023. Chief Richardson explained that due to decreased administrative staff, he cannot guarantee their ability to cover.

2) Mrs. Lindsay Clapp – 3 Barkland Drive – follow up. On behalf of Chief Feole, Captain Thomas provided accident history at intersection (Tsienneto Road at/near/between Barkland Drive/Fieldstone Drive/Horseshoe Drive/Morningside Drive, Scenic Drive, and Beaver Road) from 01/01/2020 – 2/20/2023.

Captain Thomas stated that all incidents from the time period queried did not involve any pedestrians. In 2020, there was one crash due to driver inattention. In 2021, there were four crashes, someone attempted to make a U-turn, failure to yield, and driver inattention. In 2022, there were 7 crashes, due to an animal in the road, failure to yield, someone fell asleep at the wheel, and traveling too fast for the road conditions. There have been no accidents to date in 2023.

**Alan Côté made a motion to take no action.
Seconded by Randall Chase.**

MOTION PASSED (8–0).

Ron Goldthwaite joined the meeting at 9:05am. He mentioned that there is a streetlight out near Scenic Drive. Alan Côté asked him to obtain the pole #'s and DPW will call Eversource to report that the streetlight is out.

Dr. Timothy Powers joined the meeting via Zoom.

NEW BUSINESS

1) Mr. David Anelundi – 34 Lenox Road – requesting the installation of either a sidewalk on Mt. Pleasant Street or no parking signs.

Alan Côté stated that there is no room in the right of way for a sidewalk. There is a sidewalk on Grinnell Road. Mt. Pleasant Street is narrow. He sees no justification from a Highway Safety standpoint and based on the letter to Highway Safety, it sounds more like an issue of motorists parking their vehicles on his lawn. Alan Côté sent a picture to Chief Feole last week.

Captain Thomas stated that there is a Jeep frozen into the snowbank. He suggests Mr. Anelundi call the Derry Police Department if people are parking on his lawn. If a sidewalk were installed, it would take up some of Mr. Anelundi's lawn and the sidewalk could not extend beyond his property due to limited right of way. Captain Thomas stated that his observation is that if vehicles are impeding traffic, they can be removed.

Alan Côté stated there is no need to install no parking signs. Scott Savard replied that this is police matter. Jill Jamro to draft a letter to Mr. Anelundi explaining the outcome of this meeting and Scott Savard will review and sign it.

2) 2a & 2b) Mr. Dave Fenstermacher (VHB) – new Chipotle restaurant proposed at the main entrance to Hood Commons (between the two banks).

Mr. Dave Fenstermacher stated that a new Chipotle restaurant is being proposed at the entrance to Hood Commons off Crystal Ave. There are jersey barriers there now where the old gas station was. The proposed building is 2,400 square feet. There is no drive through, but they refer to a pickup lane whereby orders are placed ahead of time. The typical que is 2-3 vehicles at a time. There will be 8-10 stacking spaces. The plan is to eliminate curb cuts.

They had a TRC meeting on Monday, March 13th and additional signage was proposed. The issue is heading southbound to take a left. There will be a few ADA spots and no exit to Crystal Ave. The pickup lane heading left, will take vehicles to the main access.

Alan Côté stated that the jersey barriers have been in place for 20 years. The curb cuts are there physically, but they are not recognized as a legal curb cut. He recommends all access be from Hood Plaza.

Mr. Dave Fenstermacher asked about emergency access. David Eastman replied that there is no fire code requiring fire apparatus to gain access to the building from Crystal Ave.

Captain Thomas stated that the right turn is close to the driveway entering Hood Plaza. At times, there is a long wait to get out onto Crystal Ave. This may create different traffic issues.

David Eastman stated that 55 Crystal Ave is the address for all of Hood Commons and he asked about Chipotle deliveries and trash pick-up.

Mr. Dave Fenstermacher stated that he will go back to the developer to clarify the plan for deliveries and trash pick-up.

Alan Côté stated that the entrance was blocked years ago by the owner due to traffic hazards. Randall Chase stated that where the Walgreens was, now Dollar General, that there is a porkchop there and people have had to double back and that is an issue in that area of Crystal Ave.

Alan Côté stated that the Highway Safety minutes will be forwarded to the Planning Board.

Randall Chase recommends eliminating the right turn entrance(as vehicles will try to take a left from the opposite direction) and have access to a single lane entrance. Alan Côté asked Derry Fire if they agree.

Chief Richardson stated that he feels that Derry Fire has enough access to the building from Hood Plaza as long as there are no objections from his Fire Prevention staff. David Eastman replied that as shown, the plan meets access requirements under NFPA 1. Chief Richardson stated that he has no concerns with the Highway Safety recommendations.

Captain Thomas stated that at Woof Meow and Panera Bread (Manchester Road/Ashleigh Drive), there is a service road with dumpsters. You don't see customers there as the area is properly signed. Mr. Dave Fenstermacher asked if it was a do not enter versus restricted. He will review the access road discussed.

Jill Jamro to send a copy of the draft minutes to the Planning Board.

3) 3a & 3b) Mr. Eric Gerade (VHB) – new building proposed at Pinkerton Academy. Dr. Timothy Powers, Headmaster at Pinkerton Academy, attended via Zoom.

Mr. Eric Gerade explained that they plan to demolish an existing building between Shepherd and the Freshman Academy. They have an opportunity to fix the entrance with a reconfigured area for parking, pedestrians, and vehicular traffic. There are a lot of barricades up during the day. They are replacing an older outdated building with a new modernized building.

Captain Thomas asked for the location of the 125' curb cut. Alan Côté replied that it is where the cafeteria is located.

Captain Thomas stated that anyone with a disability gets picked up by a bus at the current building location and parents drop their kids off. How will this change impact them?

Mr. Eric Gerade stated that this is a better drop and pick-up area. Vehicles will enter from Pinkerton Street, and use another curb out, toward the Freshman Academy Building. Captain Thomas stated that this may be interesting for traffic to maneuver. It will be a different situation with the drop offs, out of a parking lot. Currently, there are issues in the afternoon on Hoodcroft Drive, where vehicles park in a no parking area.

Mr. Eric Gerade stated that the intent is for all pick up and drop offs to occur in the 125' curb cut. Captain Thomas replied that getting traffic off of Pinkerton Street would be helpful. Alan Côté stated that reducing the curb cut from 125' to 24' is an improvement on the right of way versus what we have today.

Captain Thomas asked about the sidewalk. Mr. Eric Gerade stated that the sidewalk will be reconnecting.

Jill Jamro to send a copy of these draft minutes to the Planning Board. No concerns from a Highway Safety standpoint. David Eastman stated that they go before TRC tomorrow morning.

**Alan Côté made a motion to adjourn at 9:34am.
Seconded by Chief Richardson.**

MOTION PASSED (9–0).

The next meeting is Thursday, April 20, 2023, at 9am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jill Jamro, Recording Clerk