

DERRY HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMITTEE
Minutes for May 18, 2023



COMMITTEE MEMBERS	PRESENT	ABSENT
Scott Savard, Chairman	X	
Ronald Goldthwaite, Co-Chair	X	
Chief George Feole, Derry Police Dept. Rep.	X	
Chief Jim Richardson, Derry Fire Dept. Rep.	X	
Superintendent Alan Côté, Highway Division Rep.	X	
Jane Simard, School Dept. Rep	X	
Walter Deyo, Citizen Member	X	
Randall Chase, Citizen Member	X	
Lindsay Clapp, Citizen Member	X	
Jodi Nelson – Citizen Member		X
Jeremy Lamothe (<i>Alt. School Dept Rep.</i>)		
Patti Doyle (<i>Alt. School Dept Rep.</i>)		
Director David Eastman (<i>Alt. Fire Dept. Rep.</i>)	X	
Director of Public Works Mike Fowler (<i>Alt. Highway Division Rep.</i>)		
Captain Vernon Thomas (<i>Alt. Derry Police Dept. Rep.</i>)		
Captain David Michaud (<i>Alt. Derry Police Dept. Rep.</i>)		

In attendance: Nathalie Poirier and Barry O'Neill, Sr.

A monthly meeting of the Derry Highway Safety Committee was held on Thursday, May 18, 2023, at the Derry Municipal Center. The meeting was called to order at 9:01 am.

Approval of Minutes - The minutes from the April 20, 2023, meeting, were reviewed. ***Alan Cote made a motion to approve the April 20, 2023, minutes as written. Seconded by Chief George Feole. MOTION PASSED (10-0-0).***

NEW BUSINESS

- 1) Mr. Manny Krishnamoorthy – 124 Goodhue Road – increasing number of vehicles and speeding concerns. Request for speed breakers. (Please see attachment #1).
Chairman Savard asks if Mr. Krishnamoorthy is in attendance, and it was confirmed that he was not. Alan Cote briefly explained the concerns Mr. Krishnamoorthy has and read his email. (*See attachment #1*). Alan Cote briefly explains the traffic count that was completed on Goodhue Rd. and discusses how they look at the 85th percentile on traffic counts, which is the agency standard.

Alan Cote reports that the 85th percentile on Goodhue Rd. was 37.69mph. He further reports that the mean speed was 33.4mph, which shows speed is not an issue according to the traffic count completed. Further states that he does not recommend speed breakers/bumps as mentioned by Mr. Krishnamoorthy as they create more of a hazard than a benefit.

Alan Cote recommends the Committee send a letter to Mr. Krishnamoorthy explaining that after doing a traffic count/study it was found that traffic is fairly compliant with the posted speed limit in the area. Chairman Savard confirms the consensus of the Committee is to send the letter to Mr. Krishnamoorthy.

Lindsay Clapp discusses solar speed warning signs she's observed in her travels that are affixed to telephone poles and asks the Committee to look into these. Alan Cote explains that they have trailer mounted signs which they set up in problematic areas.

Chief George Feole also explains that the police department has portable radar signs they also place in problematic areas. He also reports that they are currently working on purchasing permanent solar powered radar signs for a road by Beaver Lake at a cost of \$14,000 for two signs. Explains that they cannot be affixed to telephone poles and must either be affixed to permanent poles or by a temporary post.

Alan Cote explains why they use the 85th percentile and also the perception of speed as a pedestrian standing on the side of a road which might appear faster than the actual speed.

- 2a) Ms. Nathalie Poirier – 13 Nesmith Street – safety concerns regarding Nesmith Street and North Main Street. (Please see attachment #2a).
- 2b) Mr. Barry A. O'Neill, Sr. – 13 Peabody Road – safety concerns regarding the intersection of Nesmith Street, North Main Street, and Pinkerton Street. (Please see attachment #2b).

Chairman Savard welcomes both Ms. Poirier and Mr. O'Neil and asks them and others who wish to speak to keep comments brief.

Ms. Nathalie Poirier does not wish to speak but a Pinkerton Academy freshman with her speaks regarding walking to/from school and comments on how dangerous it is.

Alan Cote explains that a traffic count was conducted but unfortunately, it was during school vacation, so they didn't get a good profile. States that they will be doing more traffic counts to see what they have for speeds on the roads. However, reports that the initial traffic counts didn't show an excessive amount of speed on the road but were most likely lower than if it was a school week.

Chairman Savard reads from the report provide to the Committee by Director of Public Works, Michael Fowler regarding Pinkerton St. at North Main St. and provided the following statistics:

In 2015 during morning peak hours;

- Pinkerton St. exiting the intersection of North Main St. had 10 cars making left-hand turns, 15 cars going straight across onto Nesmith St., and 185 cars making right hand turns to continue south.
- Nesmith St. same intersection had 5 left hand turns, 40 cars going straight across, and 50 right hand turns.
- Bypass 28 southbound had 10 left hand turns onto Nesmith St., 255 cars going straight, and 45 right hand turns.
- Bypass 28 northbound had 245 left hand turns, 390 cars going straight, and 5 right hand turns.

In 2015, during afternoon peak hours;

- Bypass 28 northbound had 200 left hand turns, 435 cars going straight, and 10 right hand turns.
- Bypass 28 southbound had 25 left turns to Nesmith St., 290 cars going straight, and 15 right hand turns.
- Pinkerton St. had 10 left hand turns, 40 cars going straight, and 435 right hand turns.
- Nesmith St. had 5 left hand turns, 30 cars going straight, and 25 right hand turns.

Chairman Savard reads Nathalie Poirier's letter to the Committee specifically her concerns in the letter. (*See attachment #2a*)

Alan Cote explains that changing roads to one-way can impact other roads and create new problems.

Chief George Feole agrees and explains the need to get more traffic studies and data including data when school is in session. Explains that the counts from Southern NH Planning Commission were in the summer, which didn't reflect school traffic. States that he spoke with Southern NH Planning Commission and requested a new study during the school year to gather accurate data to see what is occurring at these intersections prior to making any decisions.

Walter Deyo questioned if Exit 4A could impact the area. Alan Cote believes the biggest impact for the intersection is Pinkerton Academy and explains how the peak hours are when school begins and ends.

Chairman Savard references the memo from Director of Public Works, Michael Fowler regarding the next steps which include compiling data, reviewing accident data from the police department, and determining whether a full traffic study is warranted.

Director of Public Works, Michael Fowler explains how documents have been provided to the Committee including data from 2015 and 2019. Also, explains how the Committee looks at issues and collects all the information to make an educated, methodical, and scientific response. Discussed how the Committee will continue to gather data and have a future discussion on this.

Chairman Savard opens the meeting to public comment and members of the audience spoke regarding;

- Traffic speeds traveling north from the rotary and vehicles passing on the right cutting up onto the sidewalk that has no curbing.
- The number of accidents seen at this location over the past 30 years.

Chief Feole questioned the number of accidents observed and the member of the audience reported one every couple of weeks. Chief George Feole states that they reviewed statistics and found it is one accident per month. He further explained the high volume of vehicles traveling the roadway each day.

- Members of the audience commented that changes need to be made and speed is an issue throughout the Town.
- Expressed concerns about the rotary and driver's not yielding into the rotary and speeding as they exit the rotary traveling northbound to Pinkerton Academy.
- Expressed concerns that the collection of data will take months and they would like something done sooner.
- Commented on educating the residents on rules of the road.
- Discussed making right-hand turns only and making Nesmith St. one-way.

Lindsay Clapp asked about using crossing guards to help the students. Chief George Feole explained that the schools employ crossing guards not the Town.

Jane Simard explains that the schools once had 7 in several locations throughout Town. However, they can't find or employ crossing guards. Further mentions safety measures they have put in place including a bus that transports students from Derry Village to the Fairways and does the same for students at Pinkerton Academy to reduce the number of students crossing the roads.

Lindsay Clapp suggested community members volunteering to help the children and also suggested creating an editorial in the local newspaper.

Jim Roddy of Drew Road speaks briefly about traffic changes and balancing safety with convenience. Also speaks about right hand turn options and driver's waiting to turn left allowing vehicles to go across while a vehicle is passing on the right. Suggests making a right turn only on both ends of Pinkerton St. and also Nesmith St.

Chief George Feole explains how it's premature to make any changes at this point until all the data and the studies are completed. Alan Cote agrees and comments if you don't wait to complete these, you can create additional problems.

Lindsay Clapp states that they are looking for ways to mitigate any additional tragedies while collecting data.

Chairman Savard confirms that they will wait for additional data to come in before making any recommendations to Town Council.

Alan Cote explains that engineers completing studies use computer software that shows how changes effect other area roads, understands the resident's concerns and states that it will take a few months to complete but it's necessary to avoid creating a larger problem.

A member of the audience questioned if anyone has looked into pedestrian traffic. Alan Cote believes pedestrian traffic is not an issue in this area. Chairman Savard asks if Jane Simard could put something out to the students about using sidewalks.

- 3) Mr. Calvin Philibert-Dyer – student at Pinkerton Academy requesting a stop sign at the bus stop at the intersection between Derryfield Road and Bowers Road. (Please see attachment #3).

Chairman Savard asks if Mr. Philibert-Dyer is in attendance, and it was confirmed that he was not. Alan Cote explains that he believes Mr. Dyer is looking for a stop sign on Derryfield Rd. and comments that the MUTCD federal guidelines, which the Town follows, does not allow the use of stop signs as a mean to controlling the speed of traffic and is meant to stop traffic in order to make sure they are navigating an intersection safely. Further explains that they did a traffic count last year on Derryfield Rd. about 450' west from the intersection and traffic was traveling below the posted speed limit of 30 mph which shows speed is not an issue in the area.

Chief George Feole reads Mr. Philibert-Dyer's request for the record. (See attachment #3). Chief George Feole questions the location of the stop sign he is requesting and states that Bowers Rd. and Derryfield Rd. do not intercept and questions if he wants the stop sign on Fordway, which would be inappropriate.

Alan Cote motions to write Mr. Philibert-Dyer a letter stating that stop signs are not an appropriate means of controlling speed of traffic and we cannot recommend a stop sign at that intersection. Seconded by Chief George Feole. MOTION PASSED (10-0-0).

MOTION TO ADJOURN

At 10:11 am, ***on a motion by Alan Cote and a second by Lindsay Clapp the meeting adjourned. MOTION PASSED (10-0-0).***

The next meeting will be on Thursday, June 15, 2023 at 9:00 am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sarah Gibbs

for
Jill Jamro, Recording Clerk

Attachments: New Business Item #1 attachment #1
New Business Item #2a attachment #2a & #2b
New Business Item #3 attachment #3