

DERRY HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMITTEE
Minutes for June 15, 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 via zoom	
Jeremy Lamothe (Alt. School Dept Rep.)		
Patti Doyle (Alt. School Dept Rep.)		
Director David Eastman (Alt. Fire Dept. Rep.)		
Director of Public Works Mike Fowler (Alt. Highway Division Rep.)		
Captain Vernon Thomas (Alt. Derry Police Dept. Rep.)	X	
Captain David Michaud (Alt. Derry Police Dept. Rep.)		

In attendance: Mr. Stephen Mauzy

A monthly meeting of the Derry Highway Safety Committee was held on Thursday, June 15, 2023, at the Derry Municipal Center. The meeting was called to order at 9:03 am.

Approval of Minutes - The minutes from the May 18, 2023, meeting, were reviewed. ***Alan Cote made a motion to approve the May 18, 2023, minutes as written. Seconded by Walter Deyo. MOTION PASSED (8-0-0).***

NEW BUSINESS

- 1) Ms. Jen Thielker – Taylor Library – requesting a solar flashing light system crosswalk in front of the library. (Please see attachment #1).
Ms. Thielker is not present, and Alan Cote requested to table this until he can speak with her about the crosswalk. ***Alan Cote made a motion to table this to the next meeting. Seconded by Capt. Vern Thomas. MOTION PASSED (8-0-0).***
- 2) Mr. Fred Bates – 125 Warner Hill Rd. – requesting a blind person sign. The resident is partially sighted (central vision only) and is legally blind. He called at 1:30pm on May 15th to make the request. No form submitted.

Mr. Bates is not present. Alan Cote stated that he has “blind person” signs in stock and is not opposed to posting them. Explained that they’re advisory signs so they can be posted without going before Town Council. ***Jane Simard made a motion to install 2 signs as requested by Mr. Bates. Seconded by Lindsay Clapp. MOTION PASSED (8-0-0)***

- 3) Mr. Ralph Imondi – 32 Hilda Ave. – requesting fog lines on poorly lit roads: English Range Rd., Cemetery Rd., and Scobie Pond Rd. (Please see attachment #3).

Mr. Imondi is not present. Alan Cote provided a brief history on fog line requests over the years and cost analysis previously completed. Explained fog lines went before Town Council in 2016 and did not receive support for them. Also stated that they are not budgeted for, would triple the number of roads striped in Town, and Town Council needs to approve them first.

Lindsay Clapp questioned if the area has a lot of fog. Alan Cote explained that fog lines are not necessarily for fog but for a visual to see the edge of the roadway.

Ronald Goldthwaite questioned if there are engineering studies or standards on fog lines. Alan Cote confirms there are and explained that this road is an 18’ wide road and would become even more narrow after installing them. Also briefly discussed the survey regarding fog lines that went out in 2016 with a 50/50 result for and against them.

Lindsay Clapp suggested another survey be conducted. Alan Cote suggested going before Town Council before moving forward on fog lines. ***Lindsay Clapp made a motion to recommend to Town Council to put striping on collector roads in Town. Seconded by Walter Deyo. MOTION PASSED (6-1-1) Ronald Goldthwaite abstained.***

- 4) Mr. Kevin Eyring – 12 Wall St. – requesting a speed limit reduction to 20 mph or a speed bump to slow motorists. Also requesting “Do not Block Intersection” in front of the entrance of Wall St. from Broadway. (Please see attachment #4).

Mr. Eyring is not present. Ronald Goldthwaite questioned if 20mph is ever posted. Capt. Vern Thomas stated only in school zones when the lights are flashing. Also explained that a speed study was completed recently which showed no justification to reduce speeds on the road. Alan Cote states the study was completed 2 weeks ago and the 85th percentile was traveling 23.60mph or less and the 95th percentile was 26.96mph. Stated out of 2,590 vehicles in the study only 35 exceeded 35mph.

The “Do not Block Intersection” request, Alan Cote explained that there is very little traffic count in the area with only 500 vehicles daily. States that unless there is a tremendous que of traffic on a regular basis, you typically don’t paint on the road. Capt. Vern Thomas explained that painting the roadway is not effective to address this as you will not see it with vehicles in front of you. Also, based on the traffic volume there is no merit for it.

Ronald Goldthwaite questioned if signage would then be appropriate. Alan Cote explained it wouldn't since you wouldn't see the signs since they'd be up against the curb line and blocked also by vehicles parked parallel making them ineffective. Comments that he sent Mr. Eyring a letter with a copy of the findings and told him speed didn't appear to be an issue.

Capt. Vern Thomas also explained that when emergency vehicles are responding to a call, they can be traveling at a higher rate of speed than posted. These are calculated into the speed study, but the study doesn't indicate if a vehicle is an emergency vehicle. ***Motion made by Alan Cote to send a letter to Mr. Eyring explaining speed doesn't appear to be an issue and can't justify placing a "Do not Block Intersection" sign on East Broadway. Seconded by Capt. Vern Thomas. MOTION PASSED (8-0-0).***

- 5) 5a, 5b, 5c & 5d Mr. Stephen Mauzy – 35 High St. – request for a 3-way stop sign to replace the yield sign. Request for "Do not Block Intersection" on Elm and Broadway. Request for speed limit to be reduced to 25 mph and No Thru Trucking signage. Add sign westbound on High. Intersection of Fordway & Broadway – yield sign at street level requested. (Please see attachments #5a, 5b, 5c, and 5d).

Mr. Mauzy was present and briefly spoke about the locations of the sidewalks and how they only go up two thirds of the road before switching to the other side. Spoke about the amount of pedestrian traffic on High St. and the amount of bus stops. Explained how the road is heavily traveled, has become an expressway from Rte. 102, and his concern about a severe accident occurring.

Alan Cote stated that he reviewed the ordinance to look into the yield sign westbound on Jefferson St. at High St. and recommends it be a stop sign. He doesn't recommend placing stop signs along High St. and explained stops signs under MUTCD are for stopping to navigate an intersection and not used to slow traffic. Mr. Mauzy questioned if a crosswalk with flashing lights be installed. Alan Cote will look into it but explained that it has to connect to sidewalks on both sides of the road.

Mr. Mauzy questioned if the speed could be reduced from 30mph to 25mph and if a radar sign could be installed. Capt. Vern Thomas explained how there is no radar available to permanently install but he could place a radar trailer out in the location periodically. ***Alan Cote made a motion to recommend to Town Council to amend the traffic ordinance to make the intersection at Jefferson St. at High St. a stop instead of a yield in the westbound direction. Seconded by Capt. Vern Thomas. MOTION PASSED (8-0-0).***

Mr. Mauzy questioned if the radar sign would be placed on the road and gave Capt. Vern Thomas permission to place the radar trailer on his property. He also spoke about the speed of vehicles on the road and passing him while trying to turn left into his driveway. Alan Cote stated he'll look at the feasibility of a crosswalk and if it can be installed, he'll most likely have it done before the next meeting. ***Ronald Goldthwaite states the crosswalk portion will be tabled to the next meeting under old business while waiting for further study.***

Mr. Mauzy briefly spoke about his concern regarding exiting Fordway and the yield to left sign and requested the sign be lowered. Alan Cote explained the placement of the sign is at standard installation guidelines and doesn't recommend moving it.

Mr. Mauzy briefly spoke about entering the same intersection to take a right and then a left onto Elm St. and it being blocked with traffic. Capt. Vern Thomas stated that thru traffic has the right of way and anyone making a left-hand turn is required to yield. Further commented that the road is wide enough to allow for 2 vehicles, one turning left and the other proceeding straight. Commented that by placing a sign wouldn't change that the vehicles traveling straight have the right of way. Mr. Mauzy requested a "Do not Block Intersection" painted on the road. Capt. Vern Thomas explained that this problem doesn't occur all day and mostly during just the commute hours. **Alan Cote made a motion to stripe West Broadway for "Do not Block Intersection". Seconded by Capt. Vern Thomas. MOTION FAILED (0-8-0).**

Alan Cote stated the last item requested by Mr. Mauzy was "No thru Trucking" signs and explained that they are unconstitutional and unlawful. Explained you only post a road for weight limits for reasons such as structural.

- 6) Ms. Jackie Dempsey – 20 Spollett Dr. – request for one or more stop signs at Spollett Dr. and Maxwell Dr. (Please see attachment #6).

Ms. Dempsey is not present. Jodi Nelson commented that she's familiar with the area and supports this request. Commented on a similar intersection by her residence and believes a 4-way stop helps slow traffic. *Jodi Nelson excused herself from the meeting at 10:07am.*

Alan Cote explained that this location has a low volume of traffic and that this request appears to be for slowing down traffic and not controlling an intersection. Explained that the location has traffic coming to a "T" in the road. Capt. Vern Thomas explained that the location is distinctly different from the one mentioned by Jodi Nelson. Further explained that when traveling down Spollett Dr. you already have to slow down to make the 90-degree turn and the area is residential with no thru street. **Alan Cote made a motion to recommend a stop sign at the intersection of Spollett Dr. and Maxwell Dr. Seconded by Capt. Vern Thomas. MOTION FAILED (0-7-0)**

MOTION TO ADJOURN

At 10:30 am, ***on a motion by Lindsay Clapp and a second by Alan Cote the meeting adjourned. MOTION PASSED (7-0-0).***

The next meeting will be on Thursday, July 20, 2023 at 9:00 am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sarah Gibbs

for
Jill Jamro, Recording Clerk