

DERRY HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Minutes for August 17, 2023



COMMITTEE MEMBER	PRESENT	ABSENT
Scott Savard, Chairperson	X	
Ronald Goldthwaite, Co-Chair	X	
Chief George Feole, Derry Police	X	
Chief Jim Richardson, Derry Fire	X	
Superintendent Alan Côté, DPW	X	
Jane Simard, Derry School Dept.		X
Walter Deyo, Citizen Member	X	
Randall Chase, Citizen Member	X	
Lindsay Clapp, Citizen Member	X	
Jodi Nelson, Citizen Member	X	
Jeremy Lamothe (School Dept Alt.)		X
Patti Doyle (School Dept Alt.)		X
Director, David Eastman (Fire Alt.)	X	
DPW Director, Mike Fowler (DPW Alt.)		X
Captain Vern Thomas (Police Alt.)		X
Captain David Michaud (Police Alt.)		X

In attendance:

Mr. David McKinley & Mr. Dennis Flynn – BETA-Inc.

Ms. Margaret Moore – 3 Hood Road Apt. #213

Mr. Bruce Brown – 6 Hood Road.

Mr. Charles Foote – Town Councilor.

A monthly meeting of the Derry Highway Safety Committee was held on Thursday, August 17, 2023, at the Derry Municipal Center. The meeting was called to order at 9:02am.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the July 20, 2023, meeting, were reviewed.

Alan Côté made a motion to approve the July 20, 2023, minutes as written.

Seconded by Randall Chase.

MOTION PASSED (8-0).

OLD BUSINESS

1) Mr. Ralph Imondi – 32 Hilda Ave – update regarding the request to add striping on collector roads in Town. On June 22, 2023, Mike Fowler emailed the Town Administrator the details and scope of costs of striping collector roads. No formal discussion or communication has occurred since then. Fiscal year 2024 striping was already awarded. If the Town Council considers this request, it would need to be added to the 2025 fiscal year budget or later. No action to take, update only.

NEW BUSINESS

1) Mr. David McKinley – BETA – Inc. – Future Fire Station Headquarters – site review plan – Rockingham Road. Mr. David McKinley deferred to Dennis Flynn, also from BETA - Inc. They have begun the construction design and have designed the development drawings. Mr. David McKinley stated that they are close to being within budget.

Mr. Dennis Flynn stated that the footprint is along Rockingham Road. The ideal preference would be for traffic control with an emergency flashing signal overhead on a mast arm. Flashing yellow lights would face the fire station, and flashing red to traffic on Rockingham Road. They are proposing an inside push button. When pushed, the flashing yellow would turn to steady yellow, then to red. The signal heads facing the driveway would turn green and stay green for approximately 30 seconds, and then back to flashing yellow. Preemption emitters could also be activated from the fire trucks as well.

9:06am, Lindsay Clapp joined the meeting.

Mr. Dennis Flynn explained that they are using the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) for guidance. They are proposing additional markings, stop lines and advancing warning signs. Given the wide driveway, do not block markings are recommended. This is a unique traffic signal in the middle of a roadway. Do not block markings will enhance the message to motorists. The general picture is that the proposal is the most enhanced safety device.

Mr. David McKinley stated that the apparatus is on the west side of the building. The sight lines on the east are dictated by the approach and apparatus leaving the site.

Chief Feole asked if the recommendation is for emitters and the button. Mr. Dennis Flynn stated that both of them are recommended. Chief Feole asked if the arms include the flashing light (the white strobe). Mr. Dennis Flynn answered that it can have a confirmation stroke on the preemption equipment.

Chief Feole asked if the sight distance meets the Town's requirements. Alan Côté stated that both driveways meet the requirements and that the apparatus one is dramatically longer. Mr.

David McKinley stated that they will be applying for variances as one of the requirements is to plant street trees. They are not doing that as it would block the sight distance views.

Mr. Dennis Flynn stated that this is the most enhanced system to optimize safety. He further stated that they can scale back plans due to budgetary constraints such as: 1) advanced warning signs (one hundred feet in advance in both directions). Mr. McKinley stated that the budget was proposed prior to getting started on the scope of the work. The proposal can change to minimums depending on price.

Alan Côté further stated that a flashing rectangular beacon light system is solar powered and works from a radio frequency and can communicate from a couple hundred feet. The actuator button could be located inside the station, would activate when needed, and may notify motorists more quickly.

Randall Chase stated that the downfall to a push button is that the guys may forget and the time to get dressed or preemption stops as they exit. Preemption is the way to go, if the money is not there, can the groundwork still be done? Mr. Dennis Flynn answered that it would be a little more difficult after the fact. Chief Feole stated that as the Highway Safety Committee, it is not our purview to worry about budgets.

Chief Feole made a motion to endorse the traffic safety plan with the mast arm and emitters and a push button located inside the fire station as presented on the Traffic Signal Plan. Seconded by Alan Côté. Jill Jamro to send a copy of the draft minutes to the Planning Department and to Mr. David McKinley and Mr. Dennis Flynn.

MOTION PASSED (9 –0), with Chief Richardson abstaining.

2) Ms. Margaret Moore – 3 Hood Road Apt. #213 – sight distance concern at the corner of Hood Road and Lenox Road & request to enforce no overnight parking across the street from 1 Hood Road – the Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration.

Ms. Margaret Moore stated that she came in a couple of months ago and all she wanted was a mirror. For almost four weeks, vehicles were parking overnight on Hood Road. She appreciates that parking is prohibited on both sides of Hood Road, as she walks in the morning, and has witnessed buses slamming their brakes in order to navigate parked cars. She could not see up the road at all due to the privacy slats in the fence. She worries about the kids on their bikes. She stated that it sounds like Mr. Brown has a solution.

Alan Côté replied that the Town ordinance already called for no overnight parking on Hood Road. There were signs that indicate no parking here to corner, but DPW just installed additional no parking signs that cover the entire area above the no parking here to corner sign. They (Derry Public Works) try not to install signs on residential properties if it can be avoided. The entire road is now posted as no parking.

Alan Côté explained that the chain link fence has been up for decades. He spoke with the owner of the property and the slats were recently put in to keep out leaves, debris, and to add privacy to

his yard. The sight distance is no longer an issue. In Derry, they never install or recommend convex mirrors as they make it difficult to determine where objects are. The law is that when someone pulls up to a stop sign, they must yield. The sight distance is measured ten feet back from the stop sign. You can now see two hundred feet. Chief Feole stated that you can now see through the fence. Ms. Moore asked how tall Alan is and that she is five feet tall, and in her vehicle, she cannot see over the fence like in a truck or SUV. Alan Côté explained that the driver's eye height is forty-two inches high from ten feet back from edge of travel way and that is the MUTCD guideline to meet the standard. Chief Feole stated that he drove by in an SUV and the privacy slats were removed and that he could see over the fence. He did not measure the height. Ms. Moore stated that she does not have an SUV. Alan Côté replied that he measured the driver's eye height with a grade stake.

Chief Feole thanked Ms. Margaret Moore for bringing these issues to their attention. He stated that the patrol officers were notified and those violating the no parking on Hood Road will be ticketed. Ms. Margaret Moore left the meeting.

Mr. Bruce Brown – 6 Hood Road – stated that he has lived at this address since 1959. He considers Hood Road @ Lenox Road to be one of the most dangerous intersections in town. No one stops at the stop sign and there is an unusual corner that is not flat. He stated that there are no stop signs when exiting the apartments at Nutfield Heights. The building has been up since 1973 and he was almost hit last Friday. It is not just the residents, but the visitors, contractors, Fed Ex, and UPS. Mr. Bruce Brown stated many pedestrians that walk their dogs on Hood Road come up from Mt. Pleasant Street. Mr. Bruce Brown stated that there are approximately ten different access points on Hood Road.

The fence slats are four feet high, and the advantage is that they are plastic, lightweight, hollow, and can be cut. He stated that he plans to take eighteen inches off and reinstall them. Chief Feole's recommendation is for Mr. Bruce Brown to let Alan Côté know so he can measure the sight distance before the fence slats are installed again. Alan Côté recommends that Mr. Bruce Brown put a ribbon across so he can measure the sight distance.

Scott Savard asked why there are no stops signs at Nutfield Heights. Chief Feole replied that the law says the duty is to yield when exiting a driveway.

Alan Côté stated that if the apartments were going before the Planning Board today, they would advise stop signs but there is no requirement to have a stop sign. He further stated that DPW pays approximately \$6K to \$8K per year due to stolen street signs.

Chief Feole thanked Mr. Bruce Brown for coming to the meeting and for removing the fence slats to improve the sight distance on Hood Road. Mr. Bruce Brown left the meeting.

Scott Savard asked about the striping of the crosswalks and the schedule. The crosswalk striping usually starts in June, but June had 23 days of rain out of 30 days.

**Alan Côté made a motion to adjourn at 9:45am.
Seconded by Randall Chase.**

MOTION PASSED (9-0).

The next meeting is Thursday, September 21, 2023, at 9am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jill Jamro, Recording Clerk

Adopted September 21, 2023



Scott Savard
Highway Safety Committee Chair