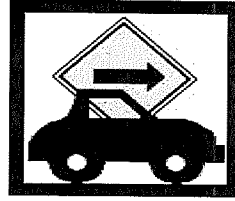


DERRY HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Minutes for October 19, 2023



COMMITTEE MEMBER	PRESENT	ABSENT
Scott Savard, Chairman	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. Muharem Mahmutovic - Site Plan Review – 1 Pinkerton Street.

Mr. Nick Loring (Benchmark) & Dave Benedict (Owner of Derry Plumbing & Heating)– Site Plan Review – 71 Birch Street.

Jason Plourde (VHB) & Shayne Gendron - Site Plan Review – West Running Brook Village Project – presented. Also in attendance in the audience were Dr. Timothy Butterfield, Peter Zohdi, John Cronin, Joe Griffin & Melissa Runde.

Jim Roddy – resident – 84 Drew Road.

A monthly meeting of the Derry Highway Safety Committee was held on Thursday, October 19, 2023, at the Derry Municipal Center. The meeting was called to order at 9:00am.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the September 21, 2023, meeting, were reviewed.

Alan Côté made a motion to approve the September 21, 2023, minutes as written.

Seconded by Chief Feole.

MOTION PASSED (6–0) with Scott Savard & Randy Chase abstaining.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

1) Ms. Eva Ruiz – 120 Scobie Pond Road - request for blind driveway signage for the corner of Scobie Pond Road and By-Pass 28.

Alan Côté stated that blind driveway signs have proven to be ineffective per the Manual Uniform on Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) guidelines. Blind driveway signs give a false sense of security, and they have zero impact on traffic speed. He stated that her driveway is a horseshoe and that he recommends that she use the westerly exit to improve her visibility when exiting her driveway.

The Highway Safety Committee consensus was to take no action. Jill Jamro to draft a letter for the Highway Safety Committee chair to sign.

2) Mr. Muharem Mahmutovic – 1 Pinkerton Street – Site Plan Review – follow-up discussion from July 20, 2023. Mr. Mahmutovic stated that he addressed the three items that were of concern at the July 2023 Highway Safety Committee Meeting.

#1) The dumpster location – on the last page of the set of the plans, you will see that the dumpster is not in driveway #1.

#2) All ten parking spots, vehicles can turn around without entering the right of way, as depicted on the first page (sheet 1 of 1). There are 5 parking spaces for retail, two-bedroom apartment (2 spaces), two-bedroom apartment (2 spaces), two-bedroom apartment (2 spaces). There is a total of thirteen parking spaces: ten on site and three proposed on North Main Street. The #10 parking space is the tightest. Pictures 5,6,7,8 show that vehicles can face forward onto Pinkerton Street.

#3) The three proposed parking spaces on By-Pass 28 originally did not have the required sight distance. The engineers went to 35 mph and added an additional 25' of sight distance. The site distance is 225' which exceeds the Town requirement of 200'.

On Sheet #1 of #1, picture #4 shows the 8 parking spots on North Main Street from the property to the rotary.

Mr. Mahmutovic stated that he is not asking for anything different than what already exists. Picture #3 shows the white line and picture #4 is much further in from the road line.

Alan Côté asked about the parking spaces on North Main Street in picture #3, is it currently grass? Mr. Mahmutovic replied that it is partially asphalt and gravel and that it will be level graded and paved with asphalt curbing. Alan Côté advised that if it is not paved, there will be erosion issues.

Scott Savard asked what is the intention with pushing snow during winter from North Main Street to Pinkerton Street? A large pile of snow will impede the sight distance.

Alan Côté stated that his first concern is that the retaining wall will be 7.6' from the edge of the building at the far end. There will be no place for the snow to go. Parking spaces shown 9 feet wide in front of the retaining wall are not practical. Drivers will not park close enough to the retaining wall to stay within the 9 foot wide parking space and will therefore obstruct sight distance for vehicles exiting Pinkerton Street. Mr. Mahmutovic stated that it is 9 feet from the line. Alan Côté stated that with retaining walls, people tend to park further out. Mr. Mahmutovic stated that he can make the parking space 10 feet. Discussion ensued about how far people will park if it is a public space. Mr. Mahmutovic stated that this plan meets the sight distance. The parking spaces on North Main Street can be used by anyone and they would not go toward credit for the site. He is concerned with the limited sight distance. Mr. Mahmutovic stated there are other spots further down on North Main Street. Alan Côté stated that the spaces being referred to did not obstruct sight distance for vehicles exiting a roadway. The proposed spaces would obstruct sight distance.

Scott Savard stated he has a few questions. 1) He asked if there is anything from the state through Exit 4A. Alan Côté replied that there are no reconfiguration plans for this area but that traffic patterns may change. The impact will be at Tsienneto Road @ By-Pass 28. 2) If these are public parking spaces, is there a two-hour limit in the school zone? Chief Feole answered that they would need to review the Town ordinance to see if any modifications would need to be made.

Randy Chase asked about the public parking spaces in relation to the edge of right-of-way. Alan Côté explained that they are listed on the first page. It shows that boundary/property lines are out in the public right of way.

Alan Côté stated that his second concern is parking space #10 is listed at 16 ½', and the aisle spacing requirement is 24'.

The third concern is that the first picture shows that the trash truck will be in the travel way of Pinkerton Street (its back end) as they try to pick up the dumpster.

Mr. Mahmutovic stated that a variance was granted and that the Planning Board sent him to the Highway Safety Committee.

Alan Côté stated that unless the trash truck was less than 10 feet long (Impossible). There is no way they can empty the dumpster if the dumpster is kept at an angle when a vehicle is parked in parking space #1. Scott Savard asked how long the dumpster has been there? Mr. Mahmutovic answered three years. Scott Savard asked why this would be a problem now? Alan Côté answered that with the expanding parking spaces, the dumpster would need to be turned parallel to the parking spaces forcing the trash truck to be in the travelled way for Pinkerton Street.

Mr. Mahmutovic stated that when he bought the building, it had six parking spaces. There have not been any issues and now he plans to go to ten parking spaces. Why is this an issue now? Alan Côté

replied that the building was lightly occupied. Once the building is at full occupancy, the problem with the dumpster is that all the other parking spaces would potentially be full. Mr. Mahmutovic stated that historically the building has been used for retail space and he does not agree with what is being said. He is not saying that parking will not be a challenge.

Alan Côté stated that he is bringing up concerns from a Highway Safety standpoint and that he is not trying to be unkind. There are safety issues with the parking spaces and the dumpster.

Chief Feole asked if the goal is to have the three spaces on North Main Street for his site requirement needed for residential spaces for bedroom units. Mr. Mahmutovic answered no and that the spots will be for shopping.

Chief Feole stated that he does not see the TRC parking load recommendations. Alan Côté replied that this is listed on the first page, the number of parking spaces per unit. Chief Feole asked if the project complies with the demand for parking with ten on-site parking spaces?

Alan Côté stated that the Highway Safety Committee is an advisory board and that their role is to point out concerns from a Highway Safety standpoint.

Chief Richardson stated that parking spaces #10 and #1 are of concern.

Randy Chase stated that space #1 does not meet the aisle requirement of 24'. Mr. Mahmutovic would have to try to obtain a waiver from the Planning Board. Randy Chase agrees with the concerns brought forth by Alan Côté. Public parking is all over Town, and whether people use the spots correctly is not up to the Highway Safety Committee. The spirit intended for regulations is what the Highway Safety Committee has to go by.

Alan Côté stated that typically on parallel parking spaces, there is usually a curb line versus a retaining wall. If people park their vehicles out beyond the limit on North Main Street, would that require a box out space to make the parking enforceable? Chief Feole answered yes. Alan Côté stated that with three public spaces blocked out and sticking out, it would present a challenge for police to enforce. Randy Chase explained that the other five spaces, the difference is that there is a sidewalk. The proposed retaining walls presents a problem, and if there was no retaining wall, the issue would be gone.

Chief Feole stated that the Highway Safety Committee is an advisory board, and they cannot create parking spaces on North Main Street. It is believed that the authority for that rests with the Town Council. Alan Côté stated that it is possible if the Planning Board approves the public parking spaces. Randy Chase stated that this has happened, Crystal Ave is an example. This generally falls under the purview of the Planning Board.

Mr. Mahmutovic stated that this is a valid point. Randy Chase explained that they are trying to avoid inhibiting the sight distance. He asked Mr. Mahmutovic if two feet was added for passengers exiting vehicles? He has the same concerns as Alan Côté.

Walter Deyo asked what the reason was for the retaining wall. Mr. Mahmutovic replied that in the rainy season, the basement is wet. They are redoing the drainage to lessen water into the basement. He stated that they could go from a 6' retaining wall to 3', if necessary.

Chief Feole asked if this is a state highway. Alan Côté answered that it is the Town of Derry's as it is within the urban compact. Chief Richardson stated that he has concerns with parking spots 13, 10, and 1.

Jill Jamro to send a copy of the draft minutes to the Planning Department and to Mr. Mahmutovic.

3) Ms. Michelle McGlashing – 19 Summit Ave – request for a 4 way stop.

Alan Côté stated that the purpose of a stop sign is not to control the speed of traffic. A stop sign is for motorists to stop at an intersection and then proceed with caution. This is not a high-volume road. Randy Chase stated that a 4 way stop at this location is not appropriate.

The Highway Safety Committee consensus was to take no action. Jill Jamro to draft a letter for the Highway Safety Committee chair to sign.

4) Mr. Nick Loring (Benchmark) & Mr. Dave Benedict (Owner of Derry Plumbing & Heating) — 71 Birch Street – Site Plan Review.

Mr. Nick Loring stated that they are the engineers for this project. This is a mixed-use project featuring a retail front, offices on the second floor, and garage doors to the warehouse. The two existing driveways will both be removed. They are pushing the new driveway as far from the intersection at Chute's Corner as possible. There will be a single entrance. Derry Plumbing & Heating has twelve employees, four full-time office employees, and six trucks that employees take home with them at night. The showroom will allow customers to see samples of products but will not have the foot traffic of a typical retail store front. The traffic analysis shows minimal volume.

Discussion ensued about whether or not to make this a right turn exit only as this section of Birch Street has a double lane on the southbound side. This may avoid the possibility of accidents if someone lets someone go from one lane and another vehicle T Bones them. Randy Chase stated that he comes out of Speedway all the time, and that there is a fair amount of queuing on Kendall Pond Road. If the Highway Safety Committee recommended a right turn only exit from this location, it would create issues on Kendall Pond Road. Unrestricted turns from 71 Birch Street recommended.

Chief Feole stated that the first plan had a garage. Mr. Nick Loring stated that was correct, but that they are just doing the front of the building right now. Chief Feole asked if the sight distance is met for both driveways. Alan Côté stated that he is confident that this meets the sight distance requirements. Chief Feole has no concerns, no concerns brought forth by any other members.

Jill Jamro to send a copy of the draft minutes to the Planning Department and to Mr. Nick Loring & Mr. Dave Benedict.

5) West Running Brook Village Project – Mixed Use Site Plan Review.

Mr. Shayne Gendron stated that they came before the Highway Safety Committee back in 2022. The layout of the site has no changes. There is a 5,600 square foot restaurant. The building in the

center is now smaller; 70 X 336 to 70 X 250, and the number of townhomes has increased from 18 to 39. Same configuration. Mr. Jason Plourde is working with the NHDOT and Bureau of Highway regarding the angle on Humphrey Road to ensure compliance with the state. The realignment of Humphrey Road was requested by the Town, so that the opening on By-Pass 28 is aligned at a more perpendicular angle with the private drive across the street.

Chief Feole asked when they anticipate the NHDOT's final approval. Mr. Jason Plourde stated that he anticipates the Highway Design being approved in 4-6 months, but he is not sure about the NH DOT, they have been working with them since 2021.

Chief Feole stated that this is a state road.

Alan Côté stated the State of NH decides. He sees no problem with the realignment, right in, right out, and no huge changes. Mr. Jason Plourde stated that they widened the road on their side as they knew they could control that part.

Chief Feole stated that this is sufficient and that he has no concerns with the traffic plan. Mr. Jason Plourde stated that the driveway is to accommodate WB50's.

Jill Jamro to send a copy of the draft minutes to the Planning Department and to Mr. Jason Plourde, Mr. Shayne Gendron, Melissa Runde, etc.

Alan Côté made a motion to adjourn at 10:15am.

Seconded by ~~Alan~~ Ron Goldthwaite.

MOTION PASSED (8-0).

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Jill Jamro, Recording Clerk

Adopted December 21, 2023



Scott Savard
Highway Safety Committee Chair