

DERRY HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMITTEE
Minutes for March 19, 2009



Committee Member	Present	Absent
Grant Benson Jr., Chairman		X
Alan Côté, DPW	X	
Ed Garone, Derry Police	X	
George Klauber, Derry Fire Dept.	X	
Jane Simard, Derry School Dept.		X
Steve Wallack	X	
Tom Caron	X	
Randall Chase		X
Al Dimmock		X
Mike Houghton	X	
Patti Doyle (School Dept Alt)		
George Feole (Police Alt)		
Dave Hoffman (Fire Alt)		
Mike Fowler (PW Alt)		

A monthly meeting of the Derry Highway Safety Committee was held Thursday, at the Derry Municipal Building Center. Meeting was called to order at 9:10 am.

Approval of Minutes

George Klauber made a Motion to approve the February 19, 2009 minutes as written.

Seconded by: Randy Chase

MOTION - Passed.

OLD BUSINESS

Mark Bishop – 91 Goodhue Rd – Request for additional advisory signs

Alan took some photographs of the area. Goodhue Road has curves all over the road.

The Committee reviewed that Accident Report provided by the Police Department. There were 3 reported accidents between July 2008 – Jan 2009 and none of the accidents reported were in front of 91 Goodhue Rd.

Chief Klauber questioned if there were any curvy road signs on the road.

Alan Cote stated that the first 1500 feet is straight and then it gets curvy. The Town could put curvy road signs on many of the Town's streets.

Chief Klauber felt it would be appropriate to place a curvy road sign at the entrance for the new motorists driving in the area. People are traveling on roads they normally would not, due to their GPS devices.

Steve Wallack asked if the nine accidents that Mr. Bishop witnessed were due to winter conditions.

Alan Cote felt that the accidents were probably all snow/ice related incidents.

Chief Klauber stated that New England has curved roads throughout.

Tom Caron agrees with Chief Klauber and feels that a curvy road sign is appropriate.

Alan Cote stated that people travel roads at speeds that they are comfortable with and only slow down if there is a need.

Alan Cote made a motion to send a letter to Mr. Bishop stating that the Committee agrees that Goodhue Rd is a curvy road however it is no curvy than any other road in New England. Therefore no action is to be taken at this time.

**Seconded by Randy Chase.
Motion Passed.**

NEW BUSINESS

State of NH Highway Safety Grant – Chief Garone – Monitoring Seatbelt

Chief Garone explained that the Town would be eligible to receive \$2,478.00 if we participate in the program. A prerequisite of the grant is that it be endorsed by the Highway Safety Committee.

**Alan Cote made a motion to participate in the State's Monitoring Seatbelt Grant.
Seconded by Chief Klauber.**

Motion Passed.

Document signed by Tom Caron as the acting Chairman.

Discussion continued:

Chief Garone stated that if the State of NH approved the seatbelt proposal into Law, not wearing your seatbelt would be a Primary offense.

Alan Cote preferred it to be a Secondary offense.

Chief Klauber was on a Board that determined that accidents with or without seatbelts do not impact a person's insurance rates but their driving history does. People, without insurance, who are not wearing their seatbelt impacts the taxpayer by the cost of treating their trauma and long term disability. Education was another important piece to getting people to wear their seatbelts. So far the Federal Government has funded \$3.7M towards education and the Town has missed out on receiving a portion of this revenue.

Chief Garone stated that the speed limit is based on the 85th percentile but the Law was created for the 15th percentile of motorists that speed.

Randy Chase stated current statistics show that 79% of the people nationwide are wearing their seatbelts.

Tom Caron asked how this Committee feels about this program.

Chief Garone shared stories regarding accidents with people wearing their seat belts. Occasionally, people have died but there were rare circumstances.

Chief Klauber stated that cars are designed differently today and people can survive an accident if the system works together. By that he meant, the person is wearing a seatbelt, they have airbags in their vehicle, and the vehicle frame itself are all working together as a system.

Alan made a motion to send a letter from the Highway Safety Committee to send a letter to Senator Robert Letourneau stating that the Committee is in favor of the proposed mandatory seatbelt law.

Seconded by George Klauber.

Motion Passed.

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

Motion Passed

Meeting adjourned 9:45 am
Next Meeting is Thursday – April 16, 2009

Respectfully,
Sharon Trenholm, Recording Clerk