

DERRY HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMITTEE
Minutes for November 15, 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)	X	
George Feole (Police Alt)		
Mike Doyle (Fire Alt)	X	
Mike Fowler (DPW Alt)		

A monthly meeting of the Derry Highway Safety Committee was held Thursday, November 19, 2009 at the Derry Municipal Building Center. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am.

Approval of Minutes

Al Dimmock had a motion to approve the October 15, 2009 Minutes as written.
 Steve Wallack seconded.

Abstained

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Geraldine St.Louis – Turn Aiken St into a One Way

The Committee read the emails provided by Ms. StLouis.

Al Dimmock lives on a 1-way street and hears fellow residents of his street complaining about the road being a one way. Before he would be able to consider making Aiken St a one-way he would have to hear from the other residents on the street. This letter only has one person's name on this letter. He had a concern with making Aiken a one-way in an easterly direction, which would create a bottle neck for motorists exiting from Aiken St onto Rt 28.

Mike Houghton asked if there was on-street parking.

Alan Cote stated that Aiken St does have on street parking and the road is 20 feet wide, so there is plenty of room for two-way traffic. By making this road a one-way we would be encouraging faster speeds. We have found this to be true on other one-way streets in Town. He would not be in favor of making Aiken St a one-way.

Tom Caron made a motion to draft a letter Ms. St.Louis denying the request to make Aiken St a one-way.

*Seconded Mike Houghton
Motion Approved.*

State of NH - DOT- Route 28/Lawrence Road/South Range Road intersection

Mike Fowler wanted to notify the Highway Safety Committee that the Police Department generated a list of accidents that occurred at this intersection and the results were sent to the State of NH.

Alan Cote felt that the situation at this intersection will reduce after the State of NH installs a light at the Intersection Rt28/Windham Depot Rd/Kilrea Rd.

Gus Coccozza – Reduce Speed from 30mph to 20mph – Fairway’s

Gus explained the resident’s concern with the speeding within the Fairways complex. They perform neighborhood watches regularly. He stated that other area communities similar to theirs have a lower speed limit within them and felt it would be good to protect the children and elderly that are out walking within the complex. Motorists are flying down the main road. He is requesting that the speed limit be reduced.

Alan Cote explained that the road was designed for a 30 mph limit. Fairway’s has chosen to be considered a public way and therefore have to meet State/Federal standards. If they wanted they could petition the Town to change to a private way and have a lower speed limit. However, posting a speed limit lower will not stop people from speeding. Fairway’s is not a connector road and primarily the ones speeding are residents or people visiting residents and they should be aware of their surroundings.

Gus agrees that lowering the speed limit may not slow motorists down and was looking for suggestions. The police can not be everywhere which is why they started up a neighborhood watch.

Alan Cote felt that by lowering the speed limit breeds disrespect for speed limits. Motorists will travel the speeds that they are comfortable with. Rt 93 is designed for high speed traffic however one would not travel at those speeds without considering they might get a ticket. The Department can do a traffic count which could help the Police Department narrow down when they should be patrolling the complex.

Gus stated that the neighborhood watch has determined that motorists are speeding between the hours of 8-11pm and early in the morning before school. There are 4,000 residents living in the complex. He asked if additional limit signs could be added. Currently they are posted at the entrances.

Alan Cote stated that he would not endorse posting the speed limit any lower then what it is currently. Town’s don’t that the authority to just change the speed limit. A speed limit of 30mph is reasonable and the average speed of the road for ideal conditions. He also added that the Town could not put up signs in the middle of the road. Having signs at the beginning/exit of the complex is the standard.

Alan Cote made a motion to put out a traffic counter and table this until the next meeting.

Seconded by Al Dimmock.

Motion Approved.

Tim Sugrue – St.Charles – Traffic concern

Mr. Sugrue requested a stop sign or guardrail at the corner of StCharles @ Aiken St.

Alan Cote questioned what could be done at this intersection, however there was only 1 accident (August 2009) and the accident was a DWI related. The concern is that if the Town were to install a guardrail it would actually be in Londonderry. It is not warranted to add a stop sign due to sight distance or volume issues. Motorists know that this road is a dead end and this road is used by people who are familiar with this intersection.

No formal letter was received by the Highway Safety Committee. This was a phone call to Mr. Cote who instructed Mr. Sugrue to write a letter to the Highway Safety Committee.

Alan Cote made a motion to table this until the next meeting to allow for a formal request.

Seconded by Al Dimmock

Motion Approved.

OTHER BUSINESS

Alan Cote made a motion to adjourn at 10:45 am.

Seconded by Al Dimmock

Motion Passed

Next Meeting is Thursday – December 17, 2009

Respectfully,
Sharon Trenholm, Recording Clerk