

DERRY HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMITTEE  
Minutes for December 16, 2010



Committee Member	Present	Absent
Tom Caron, 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
Grant Benson Jr		X
Randall Chase	X	
Albert Dimmock	X	
Mike Houghton		X
Patti Doyle (School Dept Alt)		X
Vern Thomas (Police Alt)	X	
Jayne Gagnon (Fire Alt)		X
Mike Fowler (DPW Alt)		X

A monthly meeting of the Derry Highway Safety Committee was held Thursday, December 16, 2010 at the Derry Municipal Building Center. The meeting was called to order at 9:01 am.

**Approval of Minutes**

**Alan Cote made a motion to accept the November 18, 2010 as amended.**

**Seconded by RandyChase.**

**Motion passed.**

Abstained: Vern Thomas, Al Dimmick

## OLD BUSINESS

---

### **Valerie Roche – Requesting a “Curve” Sign on Walnut Hill Rd near Alder Court**

Dave Granese from the Planning Board and Valerie Roche were in attendance.

Alan Cote presented the accident report covering accidents on Walnut Hill Rd near Alder Court for 2007 through 2010. There was only one accident that was due to excessive speed. The curve in this location is not considered a sharp curve but a slow sweeping curve. The Town could put “curve ahead” or “chevron” signs along this entire road because the entire street is curvy. He did not endorse placing chevron signs at this location.

Dave Granese explained that he was the first homeowner on the street. There had been at least 25 cars pulled out of the retention pond. People fly down the street. Something needs to be done. Other curves on similar roads have guardrails why can't they be installed at this location.

George Klauber commented that the Police Report only shows reported accidents. It appears that there are many that are unreported.

After listening to Mr. Granese and Ms Roche explain how motorists were going off the road and being pulled out of the ditch by neighbors. Vern Thomas agreed that adding chevron signs were not going to help solve the problem, if it was residents of the street going off the road.

Valerie Roche asked what needed to be done to have guardrails installed.

Alan Cote explained that guardrails were put in place when it benefited the vehicle to hit the guiderail versus going off the road. At this location there was a 4 to 1 slope which doesn't meet the ASTRO guidelines for installing a guardrail.

Dave Granese felt that guardrails would not necessarily be the answer. He felt that the people were un-familiar with this stretch of Warner Hill Rd because tow companies also come to pull out vehicles.

Valerie Roche agreed that the Police Report did not account for all the accidents that have occurred. On many occasions people do not call the Police to report the incident. She felt that people use Walnut Hill Rd to bypass Derry Rd. Motorists traveling in an easterly direction down Warner Hill Rd find the curve comes up quickly. Most of the accidents are due to speed.

Al Dimmock questioned if the homeowner could put up a sign on his property, if the Town did not?

Vern Thomas stated that it would be against the law to place a traffic sign on private property. The Police Department would not be able to enforce a sign posted on private property. Enforceable signs must be approved by the Town Council and are listed in the Town's Traffic Ordinance.

Alan Cote stated that homeowners need to pull a sign permit to put up permanent signs. These signs are usually business related and not traffic control signs. Unauthorized signs are removed.

George Klauber felt that if the Committee was not going to install a sign at this location, then he would ask if the Committee would consider a "curvy road ahead-next 5 miles" sign at the beginning of the road to notify the motorists who are not familiar with the road. If it is deemed that the sign was ineffective after 1-2 years, then it could be removed.

Alan Cote stated that people are creatures of habit and they are going to drive at speeds that they are comfortable traveling the road.

Mrs. Roche questioned what was used to determine where signs are placed.

Alan Cote explained that the Highway Committee follows the MUTCD Federal Guidelines to determine if a sign is required and where they are placed.

Mrs. Roche asked what she should do if she witnesses an accident. She was worried that they were going to hit her house next.

Vern Thomas told Mrs. Roche to contact the Police Department and report the accident. A cruiser would be dispatched to access the situation. At least then there will be a record of the incident.

**George Klauber made a motion to remove the speed limit sign at the beginning of Walnut Hill Rd and replace it with a "curve ahead" sign.**

**Discussion on motion:**

Al Dimmock felt that the speed limit sign should not be removed.

Alan Cote agreed and would rather put up an additional sign than to remove the speed limit sign.

Vern Thomas stated that the Police Department would not be able to enforce the speed limit if the speed limit sign was removed. The Police Department could put out a radar trailer. Residents can call the Police Dept directly and report the speeding condition and the Department would come and put out the radar trailer on 3 different days within a 10 days period.

Dave Granese gave the Police Department permission to put out the radar trailer on his property. He suggested a Friday afternoon during the spring/summer months would be the best time. Most of the people speeding are going to the campground.

Alan Cote felt Police enforcement was going to be more effective in changing the driving habits of the motorists versus installing chevron signs. If the problem continues the Highway Division could put out a traffic counter in the spring/summer. The traffic counter would identify how fast motorists were traveling and isolate the day/time. This information would be forwarded to the Police Dept to further assist them in resolving the speeding issue.

Mrs. Roche questioned if she should call every time an accident occurs.

Vern Thomas stated that it would be helpful if she called every time there was an accident. If the problem is primarily during the spring/summer months, her call could help determine what is going on or if the driver were are under the influence. She could also supply a Plate number but calling while they are there is best. The Department could make a follow up call.

George Klauber felt the best sign he has ever seen was a “Radar Speed Enforced” sign.

Alan Cote mentioned that the State had one of those signs on Hampstead Rd near the Hampstead line, but did not feel it was very effective.

**The consensus of the Highway Safety Committee was that they would have the Police Department put out the radar trailer.**

If the problem continues the resident should contact the Police Department directly or come before the Highway Safety Committee again and they would put out the traffic counter in the spring.

## NEW BUSINESS

### **Al Dimmock – Request for “No Parking” along High St opposite Everett St**

He installed a stone wall 2.5 feet back from the edge of pavement and this was the third time someone has taken the corner down. Traffic doesn't stop at this intersection. It is a narrow street with a lot of traffic. The Apartments were told that they would have to park on their property however they are parking on the road. He would like to see “No parking” along the easterly side of High Street from Maple St to Jefferson St. This is a safety issue.

Geroge Klauber questioned if the wall was in the right of way.

Alan Cote stated that the High Street was so old that they were not sure where the right of way was on this road. Alan then asked Vern if there was any restricted parking on High St.

Vern Thomas stated that there was no restricted parking on High St. During the winter there are snow banks and there are no accidents.

Randy Chase felt that the difference was that this was a new building with a fence on the opposite corner and vehicles parking partially in the road. He could foresee additional parking issues with guests trying to go to the front door.

Al Dimmock stated that in the past the plows put most of the snow into his yard to help the intersection. He sands & plows the sidewalk in front of his house. Prior to the new apartment building the plows were able to push some of the snow off the road on that side as well and now they will not be able to do that.

George Klauber questioned if cars could park on both sides because the road was a one way.

Vern Thomas stated that they could park along both sides unless they were obstructing the road, then the Police would ticket them.

Al Dimmock felt that it was not a speed issue, but a sight distance issue for people trying to pull out of High Street.

Vern Thomas agreed that there were trucks parking on the roadside during the construction. But now that the construction is complete, the sight distance issue may resolve itself and people move in.

George Klauber asked if you put the street paint on the road.

Randy Chase questioned whether there was enough information to support “no parking” along that section or should we wait to see what happens after the tenants move in.

Tom Caron agreed that the situation was terrible however where the tenants have not moved into the apartments we don’t know what is going to happen at this intersection.

**George Klauber made a motion to table the discussion for additional data to be obtained. Second Alan Cote**

**MOTION: PASSED**

**Abstained: Al Dimmock**

**Renata Dutton – Street Light on Warner Hill Rd @ Hunter Dr**

Alan Cote didn't think there was a light at this intersection. New developments are required to add a street light at the intersections. Adding lights are expensive.

Randy Chase asked if the Town could remove a light from another location and relocate it to this intersection.

Alan Cote felt that it would only cause the other homeowner to contact this Committee to have the light reinstalled. The Budgets the way they are it may come to pass that the Town will have to shut off unnecessary lights. This one is justified but it has to go before the Council for approval.

**Randy Chase made a motion that a light be installed at Warner Hill Rd @ Hunter Dr. Seconded by Jane Simard**

**MOTION: PASSED**

**Abstained: Alan Cote**

---

**Renata Dutton – Road Striping on Warner Hill Rd**

Alan Cote went to the Council with a list of roads that the Department felt should be striped. However he was shut down very quickly. It may be a good idea to go before the Council again at a future date. Collector roads should be striped and would add \$20-35,000 maintenance budget (center/fog lines) but would make it safer.

Vern Thomas agreed that striping was helpful however some Homeowners may respond strongly against it.

Al Dimmock felt it was a safety issue and felt that the Town Council should approve the striping.

**Randy Chase made a motion to forward the recommend to the Council to strip Warner Hill Rd.**

**Seconded by: Vern Thomas**

**MOTION: PASSED**

**Abstained: Alan Cote**

**Mary Chase – Street Light on North Shore Rd @ Orchard Dr**

Randy Chase and Alan Cote felt that this intersection was a well lighted area and additional lighting was not needed.

**Randy Chase made a motion to install a street light on North Shore Rd @ Orchard Dr.**

**MOTION: FAILED**

---

OTHER BUSINESS

Randy Chase noticed that someone posted “Do Not Enter” on the little road between Crystal Ave and Franklin St and questioned if it was legal.

Alan Cote stated that it was a private way.

**Randy Chase made a motion to adjourn at 10:14am.  
Seconded by: Alan Cote**

**MOTION-PASSED**

Next Meeting is Thursday – January 20, 2011

Respectfully,  
Sharon Trenholm, Recording Clerk