DERRY HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMITTEE Minutes for August 18, 2011



Committee Member	Present	Absent
Tom Caron, Chairman		Х
Alan Côté, DPW	Х	
Ed Garone, Derry Police	Х	
George Klauber, Derry Fire Dept.	Х	
Jane Simard, Derry School Dept.	X	
Kathy Garafalo		Х
Grant Benson Jr, V-Chair	Х	
Randall Chase	Х	
Albert Dimmock	Х	
Mike Houghton	Х	
Patti Doyle (School Dept Alt)		Х
Vern Thomas (Police Alt)		Х
Jayne Gagnon (Fire Alt)		Х
Mike Fowler (DPW Alt)		X

A monthly meeting of the Derry Highway Safety Committee was held Thursday, , 2011 at the Derry Municipal Building Center. The meeting was called to order at 9:02 am.

Approval of Minutes

Al Dimmock made a motion to accept the July 21, 2011 as presented.

Seconded by Randy Chase. Motion passed.

Abstained: Alan Cote, Jane Simard

OLD BUSINESS

Leigh Hutchinson – Tsienneto Rd – Requesting a sidewalk

Ms. Hutchinson explained her concern to the Committee. She stated that pedestrian traffic has increased and there is no consistent shoulder to walk. There have been many close calls due to the road being windy and the increased traffic along the road. She would like the Committee to consider extending the sidewalk down Tsienneto Rd.

Alan Cote explained that the Town had a Master Plan for sidewalks. They installed the current sidewalk down Tsienneto Rd to accommodate the walkers going to the School. He explained that during the Exit 4A Study her home was listed as a historic home and the Town would not want to take any additional land on her side. Also during the winter sidewalks are not plowed until after the roads have been cleared.

Ms. Hutchinson stated that she was willing to loose land to establish a sidewalk. The school requires students to walk to school who live within a certain distance from school. Currently the shoulder is not easy to walk forcing pedestrians to walk in the street.

George Klauber asked Alan Cote what would be required to make this possible.

Alan Cote stated that this Committee would make a recommendation to the Town Council to consider adding this section of sidewalk. However, the Council has been trying to maintain existing infrastructure versus adding. If the Council voted to move forward on the project, the Public Works Department would then put together a budget figure to include in the FY2013 Budget submission. The concern with adding a raised sidewalk along that portion of Tsienneto Rd is that it would require Wetland Permits and blasting which adds to the installation cost. Another option would be to install a paved shoulder. It would be easier for the Department to keep a paved shoulder open in the winter and allow the water to run off naturally keeping the cost to install down.

Grant Benson asked if the road could be widened to accommodate a sidewalk.

Alan Cote stated that the advantage of a raised sidewalk it that it has a calming effect of motorists versus a paved shoulder gives motorists the illusion that the road is wider and possible travel faster on the road.

Ms. Hutchinson felt that speeding was an issue along Tsienneto Rd currently and would not want to see the problem get worse.

Alan Cote felt the Jeff Lane side of Tsienneto Rd would be easier to install a sidewalk.

Jane Simard stated that a lot of Pinkerton students are forced to walk up that street due to the reduction of parking at the school.

George Klauber agreed that something needed to be done to resolve the concern but we also need to be consistent with the Exit 4A proposal. We would not want to be making improvements that would be torn up when Exit 4A goes in.

Alan Cote stated that horizontal and vertical changes will be required along Tsienneto Rd due to the Exit 4A proposal.

Ms. Hutchinson questioned how long it would be before Exit 4A improvements were implemented. She didn't feel it would be anytime soon and would like to see the Town make some type of improvement to make a safer walking environment. She was not sure if a paved would resolve the issue.

Al Dimmock stated that this Committee would not design a solution to the problem, we can only recommend to the Town Council that something needs to be done.

Al Dimmock made a motion to have Public Works consider possible solutions for pedestrians walking along Tsienneto Rd.

Seconded by Randy Chase. MOTION PASSED.

Susan Conroy – Mt. Pleasant St – Requesting a Stop Sign – North bound

The Committee read the letter provided by Ms. Conroy.

Alan Cote felt a Stop Sign was not approved because buses could not stop and then continue up the hill to the school during inclement weather.

Randy Chase agreed that was the case. However, he also agreed that it was difficult to see motorist coming up Mt. Pleasant when you are stopped on Lenox Rd heading east. He has had problems with a bush growing on the corner. He however was not in favor of adding a Stop Sign at that location.

Alan Cote made a motion to table this discussion until the next meeting. Seconded by George Klauber

MOTION PASSED.

OTHER BUSINESS

George Klauber made a motion to adjourn at 9:45am. Seconded by: Randy Chase

MOTION-PASSED

Next Meeting is Thursday – September 15, 2011

Respectfully, Sharon Trenholm, Recording Clerk