

DERRY HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMITTEE
Minutes for September 20, 2012



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	
Vacant		
Grant Benson Jr, V-Chair	X	
Randall Chase		X
Albert Dimmock	X	
Mike Houghton	X	
Patti Doyle (School Dept Alt)		
Vern Thomas (Police Alt)		
David Doyle (Fire Alt)		
Mike Fowler (DPW Alt)		

A monthly meeting of the Derry Highway Safety Committee was held Thursday, September 20, 2012, at the Derry Municipal Building Center. The meeting was called to order at 9:05 am.

Approval of Minutes

Albert Dimmock made a motion to accept the July 19, 2012 as amended.

Alan Cote seconded.

Motion passed. (8 – 0)

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Derek LeMauk – Crosswalks

Mr. LeMauk explained his concern regarding the crosswalks and felt that pedestrians were not safe crossing the street in Town since the pedestrian signs were removed.

Alan Cote explained that the pedestrian cross walk signs were not put up this year because they are frequently damaged by motorists. The expense to replace them is roughly \$85 per sign.

Chief Klauber stated that a town in Maine was having a similar problem. They took 55 gallon drums and filled them with concrete and that seemed to solve the problem of motorists running them over.

Alan Cote felt that the Town of Derry may not want to do that for liability reasons.

Grant Benson felt that motorists were traveling too fast through Derry and enforcement should be increased.

Albert Dimmock felt that motorists should be stopping for pedestrians in the crosswalk. In other States you can get a ticket for not stopping.

Grant Benson questioned if a Town Ordinance could override a State Law.

Chief Garone explained the Pedestrians' Rights & Duties (RSA 265:35) and how one could believe motorists were not complying with the law.

Cynthia Ausiejus suggested that the Town consider painting the crosswalks a color to make them stand out more.

Alan Cote stated that Town paints the crosswalks bright white. He agreed to reinstall the pedestrian signs, placing one at West Broadway @ Maple St and location another one on East Broadway by the Library. He mentioned that they would be removed around November 15th to allow for snow removal.

Albert Dimmock felt that the Highway Safety Committee should send a letter to the Town Council to consider creating a Crosswalk Ordinance.

Chief Klauber made a motion to table the discussion until the next meeting.

Seconded by Albert Dimmock.

MOTION PASSED

Cynthia Ausiejus – Drew Rd @ No. Shore Rd (Island Pond)

Mrs. Ausiejus explained that the intersection of Drew Rd @ North Shore Rd was a safety concern. Since living in Town only a few months, she has almost been hit twice at that location. She was requesting that the Town consider installing a mirror or possibly cutting back the foliage to improve the sight distance at that location.

Alan Cote stated that the Highway Division was recently out at the intersection cutting back the foliage. He explained that it was not an easy fix to increase the sight distance at that intersection. The Town would need to acquire land in order to change the topology. He stated that he was not in favor of installing a mirror.

Mrs. Ausiejus suggested that a stop sign be installed if not a mirror.

Alan Cote explained that a stop sign would not be feasible due at that location due to the 12-14% grade. Motorists would have a false sense of security in the winter that motorists would be able to stop coming down the hill.

Chief Garone is aware of the issue with that intersection. He usually tells people after they stop at the intersection to pull up a little providing you a better opportunity to see up the hill.

Alan Cote suggested painting the stop bar at the edge of pavement but was concerned that it would look odd. Stop bars are usually painted on the road next to the stop sign.

Chief Garone suggested painting a center line for 100 ft from the intersection.

Mrs. Ausiejus stated that she currently pulls way over to the right to increase her sight distance coming out of the intersection.

Alan Cote stated that the best solution is to go out the other way and not use this intersection.

Alan Cote would look into striping a center line.

Mrs. Ausiejus – School District relocate School Bus Stop

Mrs. Ausiejus also sent a request to the School District to add or relocate a bus stop along North Shore Rd @ Collette's Grove Rd.

Jane Simard, from the School District stated that their Safety Committee went out to the site and didn't feel that an additional bus stop was warranted. She asked the Highway Safety Committee to consider installing a "Bus Stop Ahead" sign.

Mrs. Ausiejus felt that crossing the street was very dangerous. It is a narrow road and there were didn't have any sidewalks.

Chief Klauber questioned where the Town would place the “Bus Stop Ahead” sign and what were they trying to control.

Alan Cote explained that “Bus Stop Ahead” signs are usually placed 100 feet before a bus stop providing the sight distance is obstructed. When the sight distance is greater than 100ft a “Bus Stop Ahead” sign is not installed.

Chief Klauber would not recommend additional signage.

Mrs. Ausiejus really felt the road was unsafe.

Grant Benson suggested placing the “Bus Stop Ahead” sign up for 3+ months and see if it makes a difference.

Chief Garone questioned how the Committee would determine if the situation improved.

Alan Cote suggested placing a “Bus Stop Ahead” sign on North Shore Rd heading in a southerly direction 100 feet before Collette’s Grove Rd.

Note: On September 24, 2012, Alan Cote measured the sight distance on North Shore Road from the bus stop on Collette’s Grove Road and determined that there was adequate sight distance to the bus stop. A “Bus Stop Ahead” sign was not installed.

Bethany Vine – Old Chester Rd & Young Rd - Speed limit reduction/Signs

Mrs. Vine requested a “Slow Children” sign and to reduce the speed limit on Old Chester Rd to 30 mph and Young Rd to 25 mph. She went on to explain that these roads are used a cut through and Young Road is very narrow.

Alan Cote agreed that Young Road is a narrow road. He explained that the speed limit could not be reduced below 30 mph due to Federal MUTCD Guidelines but would support reducing the speed limit to 30 mph on Young Road.

Alan Cote made a motion to Amend the Code of the Town of Derry, Chapter 150, Traffic Ordinance Section § 150-13 Speed Limits to read:

The speed limit on Young Road will be posted as 30 miles per hour

**Seconded by Chief Klauber.
MOTION PASSED**

Alan Cote felt that 35 mph on Old Chester Road was not unreasonable and that one should look at the road as a whole and not just a section.

Chief Garone explained that there is more development going on along Old Chester Road and would consider reducing the speed limit to 30 mph.

Grant Benson and Tom Caron both stated that East Derry Road has a speed limit of 30 and didn't understand why Old Chester Road would have a speed limit of 35 mph.

Chief Garone made a motion to Amend the Code of the Town of Derry, Chapter 150, Traffic Ordinance Section § 150-13 Speed Limits to read:

The speed limit on Old Chester Road from Young Rd to East Derry Rd will be posted as 30 miles per hour.

**Seconded by Chief Klauber
MOTION PASSED**

Mrs. Vine also requested the Town install "Slow Children" Signs.

Alan Cote explained to Mrs Vine that the Highway Safety Committee would not endorse putting up a "Slow Children" sign because they have been found to be ineffective.

Julie LaPage – Gulf Rd – Speeding Motorists - Slow Children Sign

Alan Cote explained that the Highway Safety Committee would not endorse putting up a "Slow Children" sign because they have been found to be ineffective.

Committee instructed the recording clerk to send her a letter explaining that the Highway Safety Committee does not endorse putting up "Slow Children" sign in the Town of Derry.

Richard Burns – 42 Lawrence Rd – Chevron Sign

Chief Klauber made a motion to table this discussion to the next meeting to allow for the member to review the site.

**Seconded by Alan Cote
MOTION PASSED.**

Michael Deyermund – Safety concern - Phillip Rd @ Brian Ave

Alan Cote stated that the Highway Safety Committee does not endorse speed bumps on a public street.

Chief Klauber stated that the intersection of Phillip Rd @ Brian Ave is a 4-way stop intersection currently.

Chief Garone stated that he would step up the enforcement in that area.

No Motion made by Highway Safety Committee

OTHER BUSINESS

Kathleen Bailey from the Nutfield News was also in attendance.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 am
Next Meeting is Thursday – October 18, 2012
Respectfully, Sharon Jensen