

**DERRY HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes for May 16, 2013**



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
Randall Chase	X	
Mike Houghton	X	
Donald Burgess		X
Walter Deyo	X	
Matt O'Malley	X	
Patti Doyle (School Dept Alt)		
Vern Thomas (Police Alt)		
Mike Doyle (Fire Alt)		
Mike Fowler (DPW Alt)	X	

A monthly meeting of the Derry Highway Safety Committee was held Thursday, May 16, 2013, at the Derry Municipal Building Center. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am.

**Approval of Minutes**

**Mike Houghton made a motion to accept the April 18, 2013 as presented.**

**Chief Garone seconded.**

**Motion passed. (4 – 0 - 4) Alan Cote, Matt O'Malley, Tom Caron, George Klauber abstained.**

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OLD BUSINESS

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**ELECTIONS –**

**Alan Cote made a motion to nominate Tom Caron for Chairperson.**

**Seconded by Chief Garone.**

**Motion PASSED (8-0)**

**Alan Cote made a motion to nominate Mike Houghton for Vice Chairperson.**

**Seconded by Randy Chase.**

**Motion PASSED (8-0)**

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NEW BUSINESS

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**NHDOT - Rt28 By-Pass/Scobie Pond Rd/English Range Rd Intersection**

Mike Fowler introduced Mike Dugas and John Butler from NHDOT. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the RT28 By-Pass/Scobie Pond Rd/English Range Rd intersection and outline concerns as the State considers future improvements through the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP).

Mike Dugas explained that their Department meets with various communities to identify and possibly make modest improvements to various intersections. This program is data driven so they look to obtain supporting data of hazardous conditions and determine possible solutions.

Chief Klauber explained that this intersection has seen many near misses that are never reported. Firefighters on duty at the English Range Rd Fire Station have reported witnessing multiple near misses. The Department has installed boulders and trees along the property line to protect the Fire Station from motorists crashing into the building. He drives an SUV which sits higher than most vehicles and the sight distance is an issue. It is worse during the school bus pick up/drop off times. Motorists are only so patient then they make the left hand turn from English Range Rd onto Rt 28 By-Pass only to experience someone almost driving into them. Motorists heading south on Rt28 By-Pass do not see the intersection until they have come over the hill and are traveling at speeds of 50-55 mph and are approaching the back of motorist entering onto Rt 28 By-Pass quickly.

Randy Chase has seen vehicles backed up 200 ft on the English Range Rd side of the intersection during morning/afternoon commute times. It is a difficult intersection and it has seen various types of accidents.

Alan Cote stated that the speed limit of the road was originally 55 mph but has been reduced to 45 mph. People travel the speed of the road. This road happens to be one of

the straightest roads in Derry and has 600 feet sight visibility. He has used this intersection daily since 1992 and finds that in the mornings 4-5 cars are queued at 6:35am and 12+ cars are queued at 6:45am due to the Middle School and High School commuters. English Range Rd to Scobie Pond Rd is also used as an east/west cut through.

Chief Klauber stated that the fire apparatus creeps out as well from this intersection. People have been seen swerving around the trucks to avoid hitting them.

Randy Chase felt that the intersection has no direction with any opportunity for courtesy making decision time limited.

Chief Garone mentioned that the topography is deceiving coming southerly on Rt28 By-Pass making it difficult to see the intersection until you are over the crest of the hill. Coming from the south you barely see the caution light. With motorists traveling 50-55 mph it doesn't take long before someone is upon you. He would suggest increasing site visibility and calm vehicles of speed.

Alan Cote stated that the buses do not cross Rt 28 By-Pass their bus routes accommodate for the difficult intersection.

Chief Klauber stated that there were fewer accidents in the winter when snow was on the roads due to reduced speeds. Two-thirds of the accidents are happening on dry/clear days. He stated that the Fire Department as requested guardrails to be installed at the intersection, but they were denied by the State of NH.

Mike Fowler stated that he wanted to say that the Town of Derry Public Works Department endorses the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) and is willing to assist in the process. He stated that the Department received many inquiries regarding traffic signals in locations with much lower traffic counts than this intersection. He was surprised to learn that 6200 vehicles per day travel Rt 28 By-Pass and between 3000-3500 vehicles daily from the side roads and felt this intersection may warrant a traffic light.

Mike Dugas listed some of the various concerns mentioned; one vehicle blocking another, topography of the area, cueing concerns, and speed. He stated that the next step would be for the State of NH to perform a traffic study. Signals warrants are questionable, but would take all the supporting information and develop some concepts and notice abutters when a Public Hearing is scheduled.

Chief Garone asked what the time line would be?

Mike Dugas stated mid-late summer if everything goes smoothly, possibly later if the State has to acquire property.

Alan Cote mentioned that there was a New Hampshire Electric Co-op ROW on the English Range Road side and Town land on the other corner. He was not sure about the Scobie Pond Rd side of the road but stated that the properties were set back from the corner.

George Sioras, Derry Planning Director was also in attendance and provided data from a recent Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission Study.

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**Steve Robichaud – Release of Public Servitude – Lawrence St (Paper Street)**

Mr. Robichaud has petitioned the Town Council to release the public servitude on Lawrence St to obtain a 15’ offset for his garage to line up with driveway.

Alan Cote stated that this paper street was established in 1903 and the 20 year dedication has laps. There is no value to the Town of Derry to keep this paper street. However, he has requested that there be a 20ft plow dedication to allow for adequate snow removal over the winter months.

Randy Chase agrees that there is no need to build this section of road.

**Chief Klauber made a motion to notify the Town Council that the Highway Safety Committee has no objections to releasing the public servitude of Lawrence St requested by Mr. Robichaud.**

**Seconded by Randy Chase**  
**MOTION PASSED: (8 – 0)**

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**Albert Dimmock – Crosswalk at 39 West Broadway (Marion Gerrish Comm Ctr)**

Alan Cote felt that this location would not be good for a crosswalk. Pedestrians would be entering the street between vehicles making the situation worse. There is plenty of parking spaces in the Marion Gerrish parking lot.

Randy Chase stated that this was not the first time this request was brought before the Committee. Placing a crosswalk in that location would give pedestrians a false sense of security.

Chief Garone felt that it was not a good idea to place a crosswalk mid-intersection.

**Randy Chase made a motion to grant the request for a crosswalk in front of 39 West Broadway.**

**Seconded by Chief Klauber.**

**MOTION FAILED (0 – 8)**

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**OTHER BUSINESS**

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Chief Garone asked if the Highway Division to verify that signage was installed at the Kendall Pond Rd bike path.

After the meeting, Alan Cote went out to verify that the appropriate signage was installed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 am

Next Meeting is Thursday – June 20, 2013  
Respectfully, Sharon Jensen