

DERRY HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMITTEE
Minutes for September 19, 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)		

A monthly meeting of the Derry Highway Safety Committee was held Thursday, September 19, 2013, at the Derry Municipal Building Center. The meeting was called to order at 9:05 am.

Approval of Minutes

George Klauber made a motion to accept the August 15, 2013 as presented.

Donald Burgess seconded.

Motion passed. (4 – 0 - 2) Alan Cote and George Klauber abstained.

OLD BUSINESS

David Fencer – Floyd Road – Reduce Speed Limit and No Thru Truck sign

Alan Cote placed a traffic counter out on the road and found that 85th percentile of motorists were traveling at 44 mph and would pass this information along to the Police Department. He explained that a “No Thru Trucking” sign could not be posted unless it effects the road. After performing the traffic count it was determined that less than 1% of the traffic was trucks. Floyd Rd is a collector road and 35 mph is a reasonable speed for that type of road. He would not endorse reducing the speed limit or posting No Thru Trucking sign.

Vern Thomas emailed this response - Floyd Rd – I travel it often. I do not recommend reducing the speed limit on Floyd. I believe 35 mph is appropriate and when vehicles travel at that speed there are no issues. There will always be some who fail to follow the posted limit but changing the limit will not have an impact on their behavior. We run radar and place our radar trailer out their often and will continue to do so. As far as the road design/weight limit issue I defer to Alan’s judgment.

Alan Cote made a motion to have the Highway Safety Committee write a letter explaining that Floyd Rd was a collector road and that 35 mph us a reasonable speed limit for the road. The Committee would not support restricting trucking at this time. Information gathered by the traffic counter was forwarded to the Derry Police Department for review.

**Seconded by George Klauber
MOTION PASSED (6-0)**

NEW BUSINESS

Alan Cote – North Main St – Crosswalk near Pinkerton

Alan Cote explained that there were currently 4 crosswalks along the Pinkerton Academy property. The one in question is one that doesn’t have a crosswalk on both sides. He was looking for the Highway Safety Committee to weigh in on what should be done with it.

George Klauber felt that the Committee should contact Pinkerton Academy and determine what could be done long term. Maybe Pinkerton would be willing to work with the Town to either extend the sidewalk along the other side seeing that there are now more classrooms down the road or determine to remove the crosswalk. He asked Alan what it would roughly cost to extend the sidewalk.

Alan Cote stated without looking at the drainage in that location, it could easily be a \$30,000 job. He was not sure if there was a huge demand for a sidewalk in that location.

George Klauber felt that the area did warrant a sidewalk. At night there are many residents that walk the loop, see a show and/or attend a game later in the evening. He also felt it might be the perfect time to discuss a pedestrian bridge in that area.

Vern sent by email: North Main Street - There is a gate across the area on the west side of the road to prevent cars from driving up that driveway. It is likely that Pinkerton students will want to use that area to cross North Main at the opening and closing of school each day. There are at least three other crosswalks in this area and I recommend that the students use those. The other crosswalks lead directly to gates on the parking lot side of the road so it makes more sense to encourage the students to cross where they can directly enter the parking lot and get off of North Main St. If they cross in the proposed area they will have to walk on the side of the road to get to one of the gates. At the end of the school day this would create a situation where there are students walking on both sides of the road which is much less safe.

Jane Simard stated that she speaks with Glen Neagle from Pinkerton all the time and would see if she could set a meeting up to discuss this location.

Alan Cote made a motion to table discussion to the next meeting.

Seconded by Jane Simard

MOTION PASSED (6-0)

Trista Kort – Stoneleigh Dr – Speed Limit Reduction & signage

Vern sent by email - Stoneleigh Drive – The road has curbs on both sides making the road seem narrow. 35 mph seems a little too fast for this area since the road is only about three tenths of a mile long and heads into a cul-de-sac. I would recommend that the speed limit be lowered to 30 mph and posted only on the entrance coming in from Warner Hill Rd. I would not recommend a speed limit reduction that is less than 30 MPH. This road is lightly traveled and there is enough room on the road edge for people to step up onto the curb to avoid traffic. Due to the light traffic approaching vehicles have plenty of room to avoid a pedestrian even if they don't step onto the curb. There is no need to have a speed limit sign and no reasonable area to place it coming back out of Stoneleigh. When they drove onto the road to begin with, they saw the 30 mph sign.

Alan Cote reviewed this request and stated that there were only 10 houses on this street and 5 of them signed the petition to have the speed limit lowered.

Jane Simard stated that she went out to this road and found herself traveling slower due to the width of the road.

Alan Cote added that this development has granite curbing along the road which has a calming effect of motorists.

George Klauber stated that it was the local residents speeding and not motorists using it a cut through seeing that there is no outlet.

Alan Cote stated that he could put out a traffic counter out and see what the actual speeds were.

George Klauber made a motion to table this discussion to the next meeting.

Seconded by Donald Burgess

MOTION PASSED (6-0)

Jeannie McCollough – Berry Rd - Speed Limit signs & lower speed limit

Vern sent by email - Berry Road – The speed limit on this road has been 35 mph for many years. There has been no new construction or changes that modify the character of Berry Road. During the current detour there has been additional traffic using the road but that will not be sustained once the construction on Rockingham Road is completed. I drive this road often and have not encountered speeders or other issues. This is a secondary road in town and 35 mph is an appropriate speed based on all the noted factors. I don't think that "blind driveway" signs are helpful and don't believe they are appropriate on Berry Road. It is important for residents and their guests to realize they may have limited visibility based on the way their driveways are configured and they have to consider that when they enter the public way. Berry Road is another area where we run radar often. We don't have any open areas on the road where we can place our radar trailer so absent an invitation by a resident to use their driveway we are unable to place the trailer there. We are open to that offer should it be made.

Jane Simard stated that she went down that road about 25 mph and didn't notice any signs.

Alan Cote felt that 35 mph was a reasonable speed limit for this road.

Donald Burgess went down the road between 4:30-5:00 pm and didn't see any vehicles on the road. He thought it would be a busy time due to the Rockingham Road construction detour.

George Klauber stated that we needed to look at this road at different times. He drives this road a lot and there are blind driveways along the road.

Alan Cote stated that "Blind Driveway" signs have been proven to be ineffective in slowing traffic down. At this resident's location there is a large boulder obstructing the view and Vern Thomas from the Police Department said it well. *"It is important for*

residents and their guests to realize they may have limited visibility based on the way their driveways are configured and they have to consider that when they enter the public way.“ The Town has posted speed limit signs at both ends.

Alan Cote made a motion to send the resident a letter stating that speed limit signs have been posted. The request for a Blind Driveway has been denied and to contact the Police Department if they would like the Police Department to place their radar trailer in their driveway.

**Seconded by George Klauber
MOTION PASSED (6-0)**

Nick Zaharias – Paul Ave – Speed limit & Children at Play sign

Alan Cote stated that he would like to get the Police Departments clarification on whether this road should be posted at 30 mph or 35 mph.

**Alan Cote made a motion to table this discussion to the next meeting.
Seconded by George Klauber.
MOTION PASSED (6-0)**

OTHER BUSIESS

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 am

Next Meeting is Thursday – October 17, 2013
Respectfully, Sharon Jensen