

DERRY HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMITTEE
Minutes for December 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)	X	
George Feole (Police Alt)	X	
Mike Doyle (Fire Alt)		
Mike Fowler (DPW Alt)	X	

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

Approval of Minutes

**Alan Cote made a motion to accept the November 21, 2013 as amended.
George Feole seconded.**

Motion passed. (8 – 0 - 1) Patti Doyle abstained.

OLD BUSINESS

Deborah Covino – Hunter Dr – Reduction of speed limit

Alan Cote performed a traffic study and found that the mean speed on Hunter Dr was 32 mph and the 85th percentile was 43 mph during the week and on the weekend the mean speed was 30 mph and the 85th percentile was 40 mph. There was not a significant difference between the motorists bringing their children to school from the neighborhood weekend traffic.

Deborah Covino stated that all the neighbors signed the petition to have the speed limit lowered.

Mike Fowler had prepared to present the Committee with some Speed Limit Guidelines that the State and the Department use when setting speed limits. He felt it was appropriate to introduce now.

Deborah Covino asked if there were any other considerations that this Committee could make such as adding a walk lane or sidewalk, if the speed limit could not be lowered. The School Department has provided a bus stop due to the conditions.

Alan Cote stated that it was not practical to install a sidewalk on Hunter Dr. Roads with sidewalks are designed with closed drainage and other considerations to accommodate a sidewalk. Hunter Dr was not designed with sidewalks in mind. It would require a closed drainage system to and land acquisitions to accommodate a sidewalk. There would be a large budgetary expense that would be placed on the tax payers for a road that only has 400 motorists daily.

Jack Webb explained that he had experienced a similar speeding issue in his neighborhood. He lives in a private development with 60 homes. There is no police enforcement. They chose to install speed bumps. However, when the speed bumps are removed the habits of people revert back to their old traffic patterns and they are driving faster. Speed bumps would not work to resolve Mrs. Covino's issue because speed bumps are not permitted on Class V Town Road, but it is an education issue. Some motorists do not realize how fast they are going.

George Feole from the Police Department stated that he would forward the traffic study information to assign an officer to enforce the speed limit during the high peak times. Another option is to educate the motorists with the trailer.

Deborah Conivo stated that she has had the trailer in her yard and it did low the speeds down for a little while then they went back to their old habits.

Tom Caron explained that the Highway Safety Committee was an advisory board. Once this Board makes a decision, the recommendation is forwarded to the Town Council for approval.

**Donald Burgess made a motion to lower the speed limit on Hunter Dr.
Seconded by Matt O'Malley
MOTION DENIED (0-8-1) Randy Chase abstained.**

Jane Simard – Silver Street - Speeding

Alan Cote explained the traffic study and found the mean speed was 28 mph and the 85th percentile speed was 36 mph. The average weekday traffic was 817 vehicles per day. He did not find a speeding issue on Silver Street. The peak traffic hour was in the afternoon from 2pm – 3pm with 79 vehicles during that hour. He felt there was adequate time for pedestrians to cross the street.

Donald Burgess added that children don't always cross the street as they should. They walk diagonally across the street and often walk in the street even when a sidewalk is available to them.

Alan Cote stated that the other option would be to consider designating a School Zone which would lower the speed limit 45 minutes before and after school hours. However, he would be hesitant on doing this seeing that the school entrance is not on Silver Street.

George Feole questioned if the traffic study was done before Rockingham Road was reopened.

Alan stated that the Rockingham Road was open.

**George Feole made a motion that the Committee takes no action at this time.
Seconded by Donald Burgess
MOTION PASSED. (9-0)**

NEW BUSINESS

Denyce Ellis – South Railroad Ave – Street Light

Alan Cote explained that the Department of Public Works usually installs street light at intersections and for not security issues. The homeowner can contact the Electric Company and have them install a light at their expense.

Donald Burgess added that the homeowner could add a spot light to her home.

Donald Burgess made a motion to have a street light installed at 12 South Railroad Ave.

Seconded by Matt O'Malley.

MOTION FAILED (0-8-1) Randy Chase abstained.

OTHER BUSIESS

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 am

Next Meeting is Thursday – January 16, 2014

Respectfully, Sharon Jensen