

DERRY HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMITTEE
Minutes for February 20, 2014



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)		
George Feole (Police Alt)		
Mike Doyle (Fire Alt)		
Mike Fowler (DPW Alt)		

A monthly meeting of the Derry Highway Safety Committee was held Thursday, February 20, 2014 at the Derry Municipal Building Center. The meeting was called to order at 9:01 am.

Approval of Minutes

**Alan Cote made a motion to accept the January 16, 2014 as amended.
Matt O'Malley seconded.**

Motion passed. (8 – 0 - 2) Abstained - Tom Caron, Jane Simard

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Karl Dubay – Crystal Place Site Review

Mr. Dubay presented a proposed Crystal Place site layout on Crystal Ave. A traffic study was completed and they proposed to extend the center turning lane down Crystal Ave and remove 2 or more on-street parking spaces. They have been working with St Thomas Aquinas Church and the owners of Moo's Place to improve their parking and traffic flow.

Mr. Chase asked that the grade on the property would be.

Mr. Dubay stated that the property would be even with Crystal Ave at the entrance and slope down approximately 4 feet to the back. Once they have finalized things with the neighbors, they would incorporate the changes into a final plan. Currently the proposed layout is shown with hash marks.

Mr. Cote questioned if the parking spaces were removed near Sal's Pizza could a dedicated turning lane be established at the lights at Lenox St.

Mr. Dubay stated that he would have to go back to the office to verify if it would be possible.

Mr. Burgess stated that St. Thomas currently had 2 curb cuts into their parking lot on Crystal Ave. This proposal only shows 1.

Mr. Dubay stated that the property line was at the telephone pole so they really one have one curb cut. Traffic from the church parking lot would be funneled out through the main Crystal Place entrance. If St. Thomas decides that they do not want to participate in the proposed improvements they would be ending the parking lot at the property line.

Mr. Cote stated that St. Thomas would be in attendance at the Planning Board Meeting and would be able to voice their concerns about the project. However, he felt that the church would benefit from the proposed improvements.

Ralph Valentine stated that they didn't have a tenant currently in mind for the building in the front of the property so depending what type of business goes in there it may have an impact on the church parking.

Chief Garone stated that Committee needed to be careful to approve this proposal as presented because the church may not decide they want to participate.

Mr. Dubay stated that the entrance to the plaza would remain the same even if the church were not to agree with the proposal.

Mr. Deyo suggested that the Committee consider making all the streets onto Crystal Ave in that area “Right turn only”.

Mr. Burgess felt that the center turning lane was going to accommodate the motorists turning left and that “right turn only” streets would only complicate it.

Mr. Chase stated that we did not need any more streets like Pearl Street, which is hard to enforce. Many people take a left turn onto Crystal Ave even though there are multiple signs stating “right turn only”.

Mr. Dubay stated that the center turning lane would be 600-700 feet long.

Mr. Chase suggested that we add a crosswalk at Laurel St.

Mr. Cote stated that there was currently crosswalk at Howard St and a protected crosswalk at Lenox St. He would be in favor of adding another unprotected crosswalk seeing that Crystal Ave is so wide.

Chief Garone felt that the center turning lane was a concern and motorists waiting to turn could block sight distance. The design may be good for the project, but may not be better for traffic flow.

Mr. Valentine felt that many motorists did not know how to use a center turn lane properly.

Mr. Dubay added that the site design allows for vehicle cueing on the property to allow for better traffic flow onto Crystal Ave.

Mr. Cote felt it would have been nice if they were able to gain access to Lenox Rd, then traffic could come out into a controlled intersection.

Mr. Dubay felt it may be possible in the future.

Mr. Cote made a motion to endorse the proposed plan as presented providing that the church goes along with the plan as proposed.

Seconded by Mr. Chase

MOTION – Tabled to March Meeting

Discussion:

Mr. Deyo asked if the Committee was requesting that 2 on-street parking spaces be removed in front of Sal’s Pizza.

Mr. Cote stated that there is limited on-street parking in Town, but would feel it would improve the intersection if they were removed, but it is critical.

Chief Klauber stated that parking is always a concern at TRC meetings. He remembered that there was an agreement made to allow church parking in the Osco parking lot, which is currently the Rite Aid Pharmacy.

Mr. Dubay stated that he would call the Planning Department and verify what the parking status was.

Mr. Valentine stated that the Town may want to send a friendly reminder to the owners if in fact that stipulation is still in effect. The new owners may not be aware of it.

Mr. Dubay stated that he would follow-up to determine if the dedicated left turn was possible. If there was not enough space would the Town consider a By Pass configuration?

Mr. Cote stated that a protected left turn would make the most sense seeing that we would be losing 2 on-street parking spaces.

Chief Klauber made a motion to table the discussion to the March 20th meeting.

Seconded by Mr. Cote

MOTION – Passed (9-0)

Chief Garone – Annual Highway Safety Program Plans

Chief Garone presented the proposed FY15 Highway Safety Programs that would include Speed Enforcement, Red Light running, Pedestrian Enforcement, and DWI Enforcement Grants. He went on to explain that the grant funds provide the Department with funds to have a dedicated officer.

Alan Cote made a motion to endorse the proposed Annual Highway Safety Program Plan as presented for the upcoming FY2015 year.

Seconded by George Klauber

MOTION – PASSED (9-0)

OTHER BUSIESS

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 am
Next Meeting is Thursday – March 20, 2014
Respectfully, Sharon Jensen