

DERRY HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Minutes for March 19, 2015



COMMITTEE MEMBER	PRESENT	ABSENT
Tom Caron, Chairman		X
Alan Côté, DPW	X	
Ed Garone, Derry Police	X	
Mike Gagnon, Derry Fire Dept.	X	
Jane Simard, Derry School Dept.	X	
Randall Chase	X	
Mike Houghton, Co-Chair		X
Donald Burgess	X	
Walter Deyo	X	
Scott Savard	X	
Patti Doyle (School Dept Alt)		
George Feole (Police Alt)		
(Fire Alt)		
Mike Fowler (DPW Alt)		

A monthly meeting of the Derry Highway Safety Committee was held Thursday, March 19, 2015 at the Derry Municipal Building Center. Meeting was called to order at 9:01 am.

Approval of Minutes

George Garone made a motion to accept the February 19, 2015 as presented. Edward Garone seconded.

Motion passed. (5 – 0 - 2) Abstained – Tom Caron, Jane Simard

OLD BUSINESS

Peggy & Joe Howard – Howards Grove @ North Shore Rd (Big Island)-Follow up

Alan Cote went out to Howards Grove and felt the tree were the biggest obstacle. He was going to try contacting the owner to see if they would consider cutting the trees down. He was also going to contact Eversource, formerly PSNH, to see if they would cut the trees down. This would provide 200 foot sight distance making it easier to come out of Howards Grove.

NEW BUSINESS

Robyn Tolman – North Shore Rd (Beaver Lake) – Narrow Roads

Mrs. Tolman and (13+/-) neighbors attended the meeting. Mrs. Tolman presented a power point presentation listing near misses, speeding, damage to property, and marred trees as just a few concerns. She went on to explain the traffic count that was done back in November on North Shore Rd at Mundy Lane and Wortherly Rd. There were 194 vehicles traveling on North Shore Rd daily. She had photos showing the how narrow the road was in front of her property.

She suggested that the Town considered crosswalks with tables or ledgers, increased law enforcement and radar sign; possibly lower the speed limit and/or chicanes or bump-outs along the road.

Currently residents accessing North Shore Rd from side roads such as McKinley have to roll down their windows and listen for on-coming vehicles due to the poor sight distance.

Resident of 4 Lake Shore Ave stated that motorists were traveling at speeds over 40 mph and McKinley is less than 1/10th of mile from Rt 102. She is in fear to cross the street to get her mail.

Lisa from 5 North Shore Rd explained that she had a blind driveway. Bushes along the road need to be trimmed back. She wondered if a convex mirror could be installed so that she could see oncoming traffic to safely exit her driveway. She no longer takes walks or crosses the street to get her mail.

Tammy from 5 North Shore Rd explained that children cannot ride their bikes on the road.

Joan Howard of Mundy Ln has lived there for 40 years. Mundy Ln has poor sight distance coming out onto North Shore Rd.

Al Howard of Mundy Ln added that Road Rage is part of the problem; another problem is people walking on the wrong side of the road. There are State RSA's that state pedestrians should walk against the traffic and not with the traffic.

Dean and Donna Decker of 12 North Shore Rd have lived in Derry for 2 years now and have witnessed some major accidents. We have homeowners that park their vehicle on the corner making sight distance issues. Pinkerton Academy has a sport team that runs around the lake and they fear for their safety. They moved here for the lake but it is hard to get across the street. They understand it is a lake front road, however now it has become a through fare.

A resident on the other side of Beaver Lake who lives on Beaver Lake Ave felt their road was narrow, as well. Kids use Beaver Lake Ave as a cut through from Hampstead Rd to get to Pinkerton Academy to avoid the Rotary. She would like to see sidewalks, but agreed that there was not enough room for them.

Elizabeth and Steve Delpidio from 28 North Shore Rd have lived there for 15 years. When he was purchasing the home no one had told him how busy the road was. There have been a number of rollovers on the road. People are looking at the lake and not paying attention to the road. He has built a portable mailbox, because it has been knocked down multiple times by motorists. He has tire tracks on his lawn from motorists going off the road into their yard. There are more accidents in the wintertime.

Judy of 6 Orchard Dr felt there was a sight distance issue coming out of Orchard Dr, as well. She finds it difficult to walk on North Shore Road and usually walks on Route 102 instead.

Alan Cote explained the Traffic Study and what the 85th percentile meant. He also mentioned that people tend to travel at speeds that they are comfortable at, on a given road.

Dean Decker mentioned that while the traffic study was being conducted there was a driveway being reconstructed just a short distance from the device. Vehicles were still traveling 48-51 mph down the road at various times of the day. He felt if the construction was not going on, the speeds would have been faster.

Alan Cote explained that North Shore Rd was narrow already. The homes in the area were originally summer cottages, and now they are year round. The vehicle parked on the corner of McKinley was actually parked on his private property and not in the ROW. North Shore Rd is very unique and it is visually narrow already, which generally creates a calming effect.

If you are having difficulty getting out of your driveway, he suggested that they talk to their neighbor about trimming back their brush. The Town cannot come on your property and cut down your tree or brush.

One solution suggested was convex mirrors. They can provide a false sense of security and it can be challenging to get permission to locate them on someone else's property. They also have a high vandalism rate.

Another was lowering the speed limit – The Town follows MUTCD Federal Guidelines when setting speed limits and installing signs, etc. To justify lowering the speed limit on North Shore Rd, the Town would need to perform an Engineering Study to support lowering the speed limit. However, lowering the speed limit doesn't necessary stop motorists from speeding. It would also involve Police enforcement and education.

Ed Garone stated that the fines associated with speeding are more than \$30, as mentioned in the discussion. He mentioned that crosswalks were dangerous as well. It gives the pedestrian a false sense of security. As far as tables or speed bumps, they can be difficult in the winter time for plowing and for some motorists like to speed over the bumps.

Alan Cote mentioned that the Town would not place a crosswalk in a location without sidewalks on both sides. He would suggest that their kids not stand at the corner to get the school bus but push back 30-40 feet to allow for motorists to make the corner and see them waiting for the bus.

Chicanes were mentioned as a solution, as well. North Shore Rd is 16-18 feet wide and by installing chicanes it would make it difficult for two (2) vehicles to pass each other.

Ed Garone stated if the Police Department tagged someone and the road speed limit was too low, we would have issues supporting the ticket. Maybe installing a sign off Rt 102 stating that speeding costs you 3 points, over 25 mph is 6 points. However, we have to be careful because signage becomes part of the scenery.

Alan Cote suggested striping the road would provide a guideline for motorists to stay on their side of the road.

Mrs. Tolman felt there should be a place for pedestrians on the road.

Ed Garone stated that roads were for vehicles. (RSA259:92) "Roadway" shall mean that portion of a way improved, designed or ordinarily used for vehicular travel, exclusive of the sidewalk, berm or shoulder even though such sidewalk, berm or shoulder is used by persons riding bicycles or other human powered vehicles. In the event a way includes 2 or more separate roadways, the term "roadway" as used herein shall refer to any such roadway separately but not to all such roadways collectively.

Alan Cote stated that North Shore Rd was a Collector Rd.

Ed Garone suggested a mobile sign could be placed on No. Shore Rd for a few weeks then moved.

Donald Burgess felt that a striped double line would keep motorists on their side of the road. When learning to drive, people were trained that they needed to stay on their side of the lane. He agreed that road raze has increased over time and people can be ignorant.

Mrs. Tolman didn't feel that striping the road would solve anything. There were Grants that the Town could obtain to perform the necessary improvements.

Alan Cote stated that Grants require matching funds and the Town doesn't have any funds put aside for North Shore Rd at this time.

Ed Garone stated that he would have a police presence on North Shore Rd between 6-7:30am to deter motorists speeding. He also offered to place the portable message board on North Shore Rd, if someone could provide a location for it to be placed.

Alan Cote urged pedestrians to walk against traffic and wear a safety vest when walking on the road.

Another resident suggested that Stop Signs be located on North Shore Rd.

Alan Cote explained that the Town could not place stop signs along North Shore Rd. Stop signs are located at subordinate street. Stop signs are not meant to be used for speed control. (2009 MUTCD Guidelines, Section 2B.04 Guidance #3 and #5.)

The resident from Beaver Lake Ave also raised a concern regarding the bus stops at Pond Rd and Old Chester. She also stated that she would like to see her road striped.

Alan Cote stated that he would need to perform a traffic study, because sometimes perception is not reality.

Randy Chase made a motion to have the DPW perform a traffic study and stripe center and fog lines if the road width permits.

Seconded by Mike Gagnon

MOTION PASSED (9-0)

OTHER BUSINESS

Adopt – Policy & Procedures

Committee decided to table discussions till the April 2015 Meeting.

**Randy Chase made a motion to adjourn at 10:50 am.
Seconded by Ed Garone**

Next Meeting is Thursday – April 16, 2015

Respectfully,
Sharon Jensen