

**Town of Chester
Department of Highway Safety
February 21, 2017
Approved Minutes**

I. Preliminaries

Attendance (by roll call)

Andrew Hadik, Planning Department
Chairman Chief Aaron Berube, Chester Police Department
Anthony Amato, Building Maintenance
Myrick Bunker, Building Inspector
Jean Methot, Chester Historical Association
Michael Oleson, Road Agent
Fire Fighter Jason Coulter, Chester Fire Department
Lieutenant Scott Newnan, Chester Fire Department

Absent

Selectman Richard Trask
Fire Dept. Chief Gregory Bolduc

Members of the Present Public

Janet Boyden, of Chester @ 10:43 am

I.1 Call to Order

Chairman Berube called the meeting of the Chester Highway Department to order at 10:07 am on Tuesday, February 21, 2017.

II. Old Business

Approval of Minutes – November 29, 2017

Mr. Amato motioned to accept the minutes, as written. Mr. Bunker seconded his motion, with Mr. Coulter abstaining, 7 votes in favor, so moved.

Egress from Murphy Drive

State conditions

Mr. Oleson stated that he has been in contact with the State concerning the emergency egress from Murphy Drive. The State has no issues with the egress itself but it must be paved enough for a vehicle to cross, unblocked but gated.

Funding

Mr. Oleson added that the Town would have to fund and maintain it. Chairman Berube asked if there were funds in the budget. Mr. Hadik responded that putting it into the CIP was discussed but wasn't a high priority. Fire Department will put in a reminder for next year.

Construction

The committee members discussed which style of gates would be most effective, especially during the winter months when the area would need to be regularly plowed. The Committee decided that an automatic sliding or raising gate would function best. Mr. Amato asked if there was a power source there. Mr. Oleson added that some electric work would be required.

Trees on Fremont Road

Numerous complaints have been received about three evergreen trees blocking the line of sight for eastbound traffic at the corner of Fremont and Raymond Road.

Chairman Berube stated that he, himself, has attempted to establish contact with the owner and left a note and card at the property. Chairman Berube would prefer to try to work something out with the owner prior to escalating it to the Board of Selectmen's office. Mr. Oleson recognized that the trees had sentimental value to the owner who had planted them for his children and offered to do the cutting, to ground level, chipping and removal and provide three small replacement trees for the owner to replant. Mr. Oleson would require a police detail for a couple of hours while the work is completed. Mr. Newnan added that he has observed people are having to encroach into the roadway for line of sight. Chairman Berube added that

the greater concern is the imminent danger to those using the bicycle path, which is heavily trafficked during the summer months.

Line Striping

Mr. Oleson stated that the budget situation is critical right now, it is really thin but they will find it somewhere. The cost is estimated between \$1,000-\$1,500. Mr. Hadik added that DOT needs a letter from the BOS saying they're willing to maintain it. The BOS would need to generate that letter.

Mr. Oleson reported similar difficulties with the line striping of the major road center lines, (including Candia Road), \$1,500 won't cover that. Mr. Oleson added that the person who complained last year had not attended the town meeting so it became a dead issue.

LED Lights

Chairman Berube polled the committee members to see if they had noticed an improvement with the LED lighting. Mr. Coulter had noticed there was a noticeable difference during the daytime hours. Mr. Amato noticed there was a huge difference on the first foggy day we had.

III. New Business

Department Reports

Road Agent Report – Michael Oleson

Mr. Amato stated that Mr. Oleson's crew had done a terrific job pushing back snow on corners, there were a lot of comments on Facebook, all positive. Mr. Oleson replied that he had a good crew of devoted people, good guys.

Mr. Oleson has his crew out today, trying to repair potholes all week, even with concerns about running out of money. He just bought 20 tons the other day and that will be gone the middle of next week. The extreme weather, hot then cold and all that rain coming is expected to worsen conditions, but they have to be filled, they can't be left empty. Mr. Oleson stated that it costs three times as much to reclaim a road as it does to put a wear coat on.

Mr. Hadik asked if Mr. Oleson was going to attend the Selectman's meeting on Thursday for the presentation of the Municipal Resources report.

Mr. Oleson would like to increase emergency funding for snow removal and get a well at the salt shed.

Mr. Oleson stated that some parking lot maintenance issues need addressing as well, because the cost of repairing plow trucks and damaged plows when their trip edges catches on things just right doesn't justify the savings of not addressing those issues. We are responsible to pay to repair that stuff, he added, with \$6,800 for just one new plow blade.

Joint Loss Committee

Chairman Berube suggested these were issues for the upcoming Joint Loss Committee meeting as well. Mr. Amato said that that meeting was scheduled for April 13th. Chairman Berube asked Mr. Newnan if he could invite Chief Bolduc to that.

Planning Department Report – Andrew Hadik

Mr. Hadik stated that he had nothing new to report, no new issues since last time.

Building Inspector Report – Myrick Bunker

Mr. Bunker had nothing new to report.

Maintenance Report – Anthony Amato

Mr. Amato had nothing new to report.

Fire Department Report – Lieutenant Scott Newnan

Mr. Newnan had nothing new to report.

Police Department Report – Chief Aaron Berube

ACCIDENT REPORT 2016

<u>Month</u>	<u>Number of</u>	<u>Reason</u>
November	<u> </u>	Weather related
	<u> 2 </u>	Driver error
	<u> 1 </u>	Driving while intoxicated
	<u> 1 </u>	Driving while distracted (texting etc.)
	<u> </u>	Equipment failure
	<u> </u>	Traffic control
	<u> </u>	Other violations
	<u> 4 </u>	Deer/Animal
	<u> </u>	Health related
	<u> </u>	Non-Reportable
	<u> </u>	Object in road

<u>Roads</u>	<u>Injury</u>	
Derry <u> </u>	N <u> </u>	Raymond <u> </u>
Derry <u> </u>	N <u> </u>	Derry <u> </u>
Derry <u> </u>	N <u> </u>	<u> </u>
Chester <u> </u>	Y <u> </u>	<u> </u>
Raymond <u> </u>	N <u> </u>	<u> </u>
Raymond <u> </u>	N <u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u>Month</u>	<u>Number of</u>	<u>Reason</u>

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December	<u>8</u>	Weather related
	<u>5</u>	Driver error
	<u>1</u>	Driving while intoxicated
		Driving while distracted (texting etc.)
		Equipment failure
		Traffic control
		Other violations
	<u>1</u>	Deer/Animal
	Health related	
		Non-Reportable
		Object in road

Roads Injury

Hanson	<u>N</u>	Fremont X2	<u>N</u>
Haverhill @ Chester	<u>N</u>	Shepard @ Great Oak	<u>N</u>
Haverhill @ Tenney	<u>N</u>	Raymond @ Haverhill	<u>Y</u>
Raymond @ Fremont	<u>N</u>	Haverhill @ Pulpit	<u>N</u>
Sandown	<u>N</u>	Raymond @ Lane X2	<u>N</u>
Fiddlehead	<u>N</u>	Derry	<u>N</u>

**ACCIDENT REPORT
2017**

<u>Month</u>	<u>Number of</u>	<u>Reason</u>
January	<u>8</u>	Weather related
	<u>2</u>	Driver error
	<u>1</u>	Driving while intoxicated
		Driving while distracted (texting etc.)
		Equipment failure
		Traffic control
		Other violations
		Deer/Animal
<u>1</u>	Health related	
		Non-Reportable
		Object in road

Roads Injury

Raymond @ Lane	<u>N</u>	Haverhill @ Tenney	<u>Y</u>
Tenney	<u>N</u>	Derry X3	<u>N</u>
Sandown @ Wells	<u>N</u>	Lane	<u>N</u>
Fremont	<u>N</u>	Candia	<u>N</u>
Golden Eye	<u>N</u>		
Cole	<u>N</u>		

Chief Berube reported that he had witnessed a reduction in accidents this winter which he attributed to the media coverage of the storms, advising people to stay home. School has been closed seven times this year, right on the edge for the limit, may have an extended year depending on outcome of blizzard bags. Mr. Hadik stated that they usually get their waiver.

IV. Public Concerns

Janet Boyden of Chester, addressed the committee concerning dangerous parking conditions she has experienced at a business located on Haverhill Road, whose parking lot is privately maintained through an easement with the Town.

Parking of two cars in front of the business along with delivery trucks are posing a potential hazard to drivers exiting onto the roadway and hamper potential emergency response from the Fire Department to the businesses operating there.

Chairman Berube drew an outline of the businesses and parking area on the blackboard with what he understood to be the lines designating ownerships and easements. Chairman Berube drew in a proposed area he felt would remedy the situation by providing both fire lane access to the fire department.

Ms. Boyden approached the blackboard and drew in an area adjacent to the monument, where there is more room, that might be more suitable for delivery trucks to park.

Mr. Oleson advised the Committee as to the previous history of traffic signs placed by the Town on the property in an attempt to control flow and visibility in the past.

Chairman Berube requested that Mr. Hadik, Mr. Bunker, and Ms. Boyden provide him with any other maps or information they can obtain that will provide more information. Chairman Berube stated that other towns, such as Plaistow, have very specific ordinances concerning businesses and their use of parking lot markings and signs. Mr. Coulter will look into the fire code.

Mr. Hadik advised the committee on the Town's ownership portion of the easement and recommended that any communications be sent directly to the mother that owns the property.

Chairman Berube felt that if the owner is maintaining the parking lot, using private plowing etc., the Town could not make them responsible for the cost of painting the fire lane marking on the paved asphalt area, which is currently maintained by them. Mr. Oleson offered that the Town could paint the fire lane markings for them, and plow the thru-way portion of the parking lot so that this would not be an issue.

IV. **Meeting Date: May 16, 2017 at 10:00 am**

V. **Adjournment**

Mr. Oleson motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Coulter seconded his motion, all in favor, so moved. The meeting of the Chester Highway Safety Department was adjourned at 11:12 am on Tuesday, February 21, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Hoijer, Recording Secretary