

**Town of Chester  
Highway Safety Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
Municipal Complex Meeting Room  
Approved Minutes**

**I Preliminaries**

10:00am Call the Meeting to Order  
Roll Call  
Chairman's Additions or Deletions  
Approval of Minutes  
Line of Sight Issue: Fremont Road at Raymond Road  
Parking Issue & Property Concerns: Chester General Store  
Accident Reports  
Reports from Departments  
Letter from Citizen  
Road Safety Audit: SNHPC  
Adjournment

**1.1 Call to Order**

Chairman Berube called this meeting of the Town of Chester Highway Safety Committee at 10:08am.

**1.2 Roll Call**

Members Present:

Tony Amato, Maintenance Supervisor  
Aaron Berube, Police Chief, Committee Chair  
Greg Bolduc, Fire Chief  
Marianne Duffy, Bookkeeper  
Andrew Hadik, Planning Coordinator  
Scott Newnan, Fire Lieutenant  
Michael Oleson, Road Agent

Members Absent:

Myrick Bunker, Building Inspector / Code Enforcement Officer  
Dick Trask, Selectman Liaison

Members of the Public Present:

Jean Methot

**1.3 Chairman's Additions or Deletions**

Mr. Bolduc added Murphy Drive, Mr. Oleson added Hart Roberts Road, and Mr. Hadik added Ledge Road.

## **II. Old Business**

### ***2.1 Approval of Minutes***

*February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017:* Mr. Methot moved to accept the minutes as written. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; so moved.

### ***2.2 Line of Sight Issue: Fremont Road at Raymond Road***

It was reiterated that three Blue Spruce trees growing in the right of way at the corner of Fremont Road and Raymond Road are an established visual impediment. Chairman Berube explained that the owner of the adjacent lot has trimmed the trees back. However, said individual has been informed that the trees continue to present a line of sight hazard and must be removed; which will be done by the Highway Department in the coming months. Mr. Oleson has offered to provide three new Blue Spruce saplings for the homeowner to plant on his property in lieu of the three trees being removed.

### ***2.3 Parking Issue & Property Concerns: Chester General Store***

Parking has been an ongoing issue at the Chester General Store. Although exact boundaries must be determined with a new survey (iron pins are gone), the Town does own the parking lot. Multiple delivery trucks often congest the area, blocking vehicular access. There is no actual enforced fire lane. Mr. Methot mentioned that there was a recent request to place picnic tables on the lawn adjacent to the lot; although initially accepted by the Selectmen, this request was later denied. Mr. Hadik will check with ZBA Administrative Assistant Janet Boyden to determine if any accurate plot plans exist in the file. Chairman Berube feels that it will be most important for the Fire Department to look into what enforceable fire / safety codes may exist to keep the lot open and accessible. It was noted that visitors to the Store often park in such a way that limits more than a few cars being able to park at a time. Perhaps some lines will be painted, but ultimately the BOS will be responsible for any final decisions on how to address this issue.

## **III. New Business**

### ***3.1 Accident Reports***

- **February:** 4 weather related, 4 driver error, 1 driving while distracted, 1 other violation; no injuries reported.
- **March:** 2 weather related, 2 driver error, 1 driving while intoxicated, 2 driving while distracted; 1 injury reported—Chester Street.

- **April:** 1 driving while intoxicated, 1 deer/animal; 1 injury reported—Sandown Road.

### **3.2    *Reports from Departments***

- Mr. Oleson reported that signs stolen from Jennifer Drive, Bellwether Lane, and Meadow Fox Lane have been replaced. It was noted that measures are taken to deter sign theft, however, it still happens and presents a safety threat by preventing first responders from finding their destination.
- A citizen recently requested the Town purchase signs cautioning motorists of turtle crossings; Mr. Oleson advised that he cannot purchase these but would be happy to install them (one on North Pond Road and one on Lane Road). Apparently the citizen was able to raise ample funds to purchase the signs via a GoFundMe campaign; however Mr. Oleson has not yet heard back from her.
- Mr. Oleson was informed of a large pothole at the Chester General Store parking lot; he has offered to repair it.
- Mr. Hadik explained that the CIP is being updated this Fall.
- An emergency entrance to the Fire Department is being considered, it will require a gate operated with a key fob.
- Although the official application has yet to be received by the Planning Board, Mr. Hadik noted that the Crowley Woods subdivision is expected to add ~60 houses in Chester accessed via Candia. The Fire Department will likely arrange a reciprocal agreement with Candia; and the development will be subject to the new cistern requirements. Mr. Oleson wonders if Candia would deed Chester the first ~300 feet of the subdivision.
- Busche Academy is seeking relief from their Traffic Impact Fee—the formula for expense was created by a planner at SNHPC, and this will be the first time relief has been sought since the implementation of Impact Fees.

### **3.3    *Hart Roberts Road***

Hart Roberts Road is a small dirt road located off of Halls Village Road; decades ago it was a driveway to what was then a single, small home. That home has been enlarged significantly over the years and now a new home is being constructed across the street. The existing residence has a barn and the one being built has two barns. The road itself is narrow, steep, and uneven and many concerns exist for both road maintenance and emergency response interests, for example: plow trucks slide off the road, and tanker trucks would be prevented from effectively performing water shuttles / relays. Although Mr. Oleson and former Fire Chief Rich Antoine strongly discouraged additional structures being constructed on the road, former Building Inspector Thom Roy was obligated to issue the permits for the newer barn and the new home--the lot meets acreage & frontage requirements, and Hart Roberts is a Class V road.

Recently several trees in the right of way were cut down adjacent to the property of the

home under construction. Mr. Oleson is quite concerned because, historically, these trees have been what has caught plow trucks which have gone off the road in treacherous conditions. This has been brought to the attention of the BOS, along with Mr. Oleson's recommendation to fill the side banking, tip and widen the road, and place ~450' of guard rail. Exact figures are as of yet unknown, but it is believed that this will cost the Town \$30,000-\$40,000. Mr. Oleson has suggested that the Town give up the road, in essence, so as to place it in Class VI status. During a recent meeting with the owner of the home under construction, Mr. Oleson, Mr. Bolduc, and Building Inspector Myrick Bunker made him aware of these issues.

### ***3.4 Murphy Drive***

Mr. Bolduc recently attended a School Safety meeting and informed them of his concern that parents picking up / dropping off their children regularly block Murphy Drive. Apparently, many believe that Murphy Drive is the "driveway" for the School, however it is a Town road and Fire Department access is impeded by motorists double and triple parking. Sgt. Sable had informed Mr. Bolduc that it would be difficult to enforce as there are no markings on the road. Mr. Oleson wondered if striping would require permission; Mr. Methot felt that being a safety issue it would not. Chairman Berube advised that signage would be necessary and contact to NH DOT would need to be made if turn lanes onto Route 102 are created. Mr. Oleson feels that the School should be asked to contribute to the cost of any improvements made. Mr. Amato suggested adding a sign to prohibit blocking the intersection be added so that he isn't blocked in by traffic when coming and going to the parking area in front of the fields.

### ***3.5 No Parking Signs: Dry Hydrants & Cisterns***

At the recent Wason Pond Pounder, an obstacle had been placed in front of a dry hydrant; a volunteer was cooperative in moving it. Emergency Management Director Phil Gladu recently informed individuals parked along the Evelyn Noyes Lane cul de sac that they were blocking a dry hydrant as well; to which they replied it was Prom Night—Mr. Gladu explained they still must move immediately. On Southwoods Road, the cistern is in the cul de sac, and snow is plowed into this area—Richard Bellemore offers to clear the snow out. Mr. Bolduc intends to send Brady Sullivan a letter to take care of this over the Summer. Chairman Berube and the Committee agree that parking in front of cisterns and dry hydrants is a fire safety issue, and that signs reading "No Parking Between Signs" should be obtained from Correctional Industries--BOS Administrative Assistant Debra Doda will be informed of size and text to place the order. Highway Department or Maintenance staff will then install the signs.

### ***3.6 Ledge Road***

Mr. Hadik explained that traffic on Ledge Road relative to the development of Hemlock Lane is being considered. The Planning Board has previously suggested making the

Route 102 end of Ledge Road accessible for emergency use only. Mr. Hadik noted that Grant Benson has agreed to include a right turn lane. The bridge that connects Ledge Road to North Pond Road was noted; but it was questioned whether the bridge's rating / capacity was adequate for such traffic. Mr. Hadik feels that the end of Ledge Road should not be permanently obstructed. Ms. Duffy, however, feels that those not familiar with the area or who are following GPS directions would still use the road.

### ***3.7 Letter from Citizen: Intersection of 121 & 102***

Chairman Berube received a letter dated February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017 from Peter Feuer of 98 Birch Road. Mr. Feuer expressed concern crossing Routes 121 and 102 "during the early morning weekday and early evening hours." Mr. Feuer described crossing this intersection to be "very hazardous" and "nerve racking," and believes "some sort of formal regulation of traffic" may be the solution.

The Committee agreed that, although there might be alternate routes that individuals may take, the concern is legitimate and the problem is one that has been discussed for decades. There is only so much the Town can do, various proposals made in the past (to alter land at Stevens Hall, among others) have been rejected for one reason or another. NH DOT is ultimately the authority on the intersection, and it is felt by some that until there is a fatal accident, it will be difficult to make change.

### ***3.8 Road Safety Audit: Southern NH Planning Commission (SNHPC)***

The Committee reviewed the SNHPC Road Safety Audit memo, table (please see page 6), and application provided by Chairman Berube. The Committee agreed that it was unclear what constitutes an "incapacitated" accident; it was wondered where SNHPC got their data. Mr. Hadik wishes to see the intersection of Webster Lane & Derry Road studied, as well as the Halls Village Road area as its traffic has increased greatly due to being a shortcut for Jenkins Farm Road & others. Mr. Newnan offered to contact Michelle Marshall, Highway Safety Engineer, for clarification.

## **IV. Adjournment**

The next meeting of the Highway Safety Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 10:00am in the Municipal Complex Meeting Room.

Mr. Amato moved to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Oleson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; so moved.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:14am.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Caroline R. Wilson, Recording Secretary

### Intersections with Fatal/Incapacitating Accidents in Chester

Intersection	Number of Fatal Accidents	Number of Incapacitated Accidents	Total	Notes
NH 121 A SANDOWN ROAD/WELLS VILLAGE ROAD	0	3	3	
NH 102 RAYMOND ROAD/LANE ROAD	0	2	2	
DERRY ROAD/SOUTHWOODS ROAD	1	0	1	
EDWARDS MILL ROAD/NH 102 RAYMOND ROAD	0	1	1	
NH 102 RAYMOND ROAD/HANSON ROAD	0	1	1	
NH 121 CHESTER STREET/NH 102 DERRY ROAD/NH 121 HAVERHILL ROAD/NH 102 RAYMOND ROAD	0	1	1	STUDIED
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	

### Streets with Fatal/Incapacitating Accidents in Chester

Street	Number of Fatal Accidents	Number of Incapacitated Accidents	Total	Notes
DERRY ROAD-NORTH OF DERRY TOWN LINE	1	2	3	
NH 102 RAYMOND ROAD-NORTH OF FREMONT ROAD	0	3	3	
DUMP ROAD-WEST OF NH 102 RAYMOND ROAD	0	2	2	
NH 102 RAYMOND ROAD-WEST OF HANSON ROAD	0	2	2	
CANDIA ROAD-EAST OF MAPLE LANE	0	1	1	
CARDINAL DRIVE	0	1	1	
HIDDLEHEAD LANE-WEST OF TRILLIUM LANE	0	1	1	
FREMONT ROAD-EAST OF JENNIFER DRIVE	0	1	1	
NH 102 RAYMOND ROAD***	1	0	1	COULDN'T BE LOCATED
NH 102 RAYMOND ROAD-EAST OF EDWARDS MILL ROAD	0	1	1	
NH 102 RAYMOND ROAD-WEST OF ROD & GUN CLUB ROAD	1	0	1	
NH 121 A SANDOWN ROAD-SOUTH OF HAVERHILL ROAD	0	1	1	
NH 121 HAVERHILL ROAD - PSNH POLE 7/26	1	0	1	
NH 121 HAVERHILL ROAD - SOUTH OF JACK ROAD	0	1	1	
NH 121 HAVERHILL ROAD-NORTH OF HALLS VILLAGE ROAD	0	1	1	
NH 121 HAVERHILL ROAD-SOUTH OF NH 121 A SANDOWN ROAD	1	0	1	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>22</b>	

Data source: NHDOT Crash Database, 2006-2015