

**Town of Chester
Highway Safety Committee Meeting
Tuesday, August 15th, 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
Removal of Trees: Fremont Road at Raymond Road
Parking Issue & Property Concerns: Chester General Store
Hart Roberts Road
Murphy Drive
Road Safety Audit from SNHPC
Passing Zone: Haverhill Road at Jenkins Farm Road
Accident Reports
Reports from Departments
Public Comment
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:

Aaron Berube, Police Chief, Committee Chair
Greg Bolduc, Fire Chief
Myrick Bunker, Building Inspector / Code Enforcement Officer
Stephen D'Angelo, Selectman Liaison
Andrew Hadik, Planning Coordinator
Scott Newnan, Fire Lieutenant
Michael Oleson, Road Agent

Members Absent:

Tony Amato, Maintenance Supervisor
Marianne Duffy, Bookkeeper

Members of the Public Present:

Janet Boyden
Joe Castricone

1.3 Chairman's Additions or Deletions

None.

II. Old Business

2.1 Approval of Minutes

May 16th, 2017: Mr. Hadik noted that line 95 should read "measures" where it reads "easures." Regarding line 180 ("Mr. Hadik feels that the end of Ledge Road should not be permanently obstructed.") Mr. Hadik clarified that his suggestion had been to make Ledge Road an entrance only due to line-of-sight challenges. Once Hemlock Lane is built, perhaps vehicles can exit via Hemlock Lane.

Mr. Hadik moved to accept the minutes as amended; Mr. Bunker seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; so moved.

2.2 Removal of Trees: Fremont Road at Raymond Road

The three Blue Spruce trees creating a visual impediment at the corner of Fremont Road and Raymond Road have been removed. As promised, Mr. Oleson will provide three new saplings for the homeowner to plant on his property in lieu of these trees. Mr. Newnan noticed that the line-of-sight has greatly improved at this intersection. Since Fremont Road slopes toward Raymond Road it is ideal (especially when icy) to not have to creep one's vehicle out so far out to see. Chairman Berube has already received feedback from a Fremont Road resident pleased with this improved line-of-sight.

2.3 Parking Issue & Property Concerns: Chester General Store

Parking is an ongoing issue at the Chester General Store. Although exact boundaries must be determined by a new survey (iron pins are gone), it is believed that the area used for parking in the front of the building is mostly Town property. Multiple delivery trucks often congest the area, blocking vehicular access. There is no actual enforced fire lane; and visitors to the Store often park in such a way that limits more than a few cars being able to park at a time.

A sketch of the property was passed around to the Committee (please see sketch attached, with email from Jean Packard with suggested remedy.) Ms. Boyden felt it would be beneficial to convert the grass area in front into 1-2 parking spaces.

Mr. D'Angelo strongly urged the Committee to make a presentation before the BOS or put something in writing to make the general public aware of the Town's ownership; it was noted that many do not know that the Town owns the property in question.

Apparently, the owners of the Nail Salon business were informed by the building owner that the area in front of the Salon is Salon parking only. The Salon owner(s) often park their personal vehicle right in front of the Salon steps, which adds to some of the congestion.

In a Town Meeting some years past, an easement was granted for steps in front of the building; Ms. Boyden will research this and will forward her findings to the Committee. It was wondered whether a survey had ever been done when Derry Bank occupied the Salon portion. Mr. Oleson will obtain an estimate to have this property surveyed. Mr. Newnan will continue researching Fire Codes to gather the necessary information on proper placement and enforcement of Fire Lanes.

Mr. Bunker suggested the building owner be responsible to pay for future markings painted beyond Town property. Chairman Berube felt that since this would be a benefit to Public Safety, maybe the Town should pay. Mr. Bolduc strongly urged that the Town take great care in enforcing with consistency; i.e., to prevent being met with homeowners and business owners citing unfair treatment. Chairman Berube reminded that the Highway Safety Committee is an advisory Committee, meant only to address safety concerns which have been *brought* to its attention.

Mr. Castricone appeared before the Committee and was recognized.

Mr. Castricone asked why the Town doesn't just paint parking spaces. As he had arrived only a few minutes earlier, Mr. Castricone missed the beginning of the discussion; it was noted that this was what was being discussed.

2.4 Hart Roberts Road

Mr. Oleson explained that he had gone before the BOS and informed them of the hazardous conditions created by removal of Town-owned trees in the right-of-way by a private property owner. The BOS declined taking remedial action. Mr. Oleson urged motorists (including but not limited to Emergency and Highway personnel) to take great caution when traveling on this road.

Mr. Bunker informed the Committee that he had recently advised the owners of 43 Hart Roberts Road to move their mailbox from Halls Village Road to Hart Roberts Road.

2.5 Murphy Drive

As of yet, no markings or lanes have been painted to deter vehicles from parking on Murphy Drive; which some parents believe is a "driveway" to Chester Academy. NHDOT was supposed to assess the situation, but they have not. Left and Right turn lanes will be explored further by Mr. Oleson.

Mr. Oleson reported that the NHDOT approved of the proposed secondary egress for the Fire Department (exiting onto Raymond Road) – a gate must be placed to deter entrance. This project may be placed in the CIP.

2.6 Road Safety Audit

Mr. Newnan has a call into NHDOT Highway Safety Engineer Michelle Marshall regarding the source of the Road Safety Audit data. Mr. Hadik mentioned that it was explained at a previous SNHPC meeting how fatalities and / or debilitating injuries determine eligibility for NHDOT action.

2.7 Passing Zone: Haverhill Road at Jenkins Farm Road

Removal of the passing zone at Haverhill Road and Jenkins Farm Road was discussed. Chairman Berube shared an email from William Lambert, NHDOT Traffic Engineer / Administrator. After reviewing the location, Mr. Lambert and colleagues determined that a “No Passing” zone is not warranted.

However, it was reiterated that the South entrance of Jenkins Farm Road, as looking to the North on Haverhill Road, presents visual impediment with the large rock walls.

Ms. Boyden expressed concern over the Webster Lane / Halls Village Road traffic increase—these roads are being used as a cut-through for the Jenkins Farm Subdivision. Chairman Berube explained that there is unfortunately nothing that can be done.

III. New Business

3.1 Accident Reports

- **May:** 2 driver error, 1 DWI, 1 driving while distracted, 1 deer / animal – 0 injuries reported
- **June:** 1 driver error, 1 other violation(s), 1 deer / animal – 0 injuries reported
- **July:** 3 driver error, 2 driving while distracted, 1 other violation(s) – 1 injury reported

3.2 Reports from Departments

- **Highway Department:** Mr. Oleson reported that brush clearing and cold patching are underway, as is preparation to pave some roads in September. Tree removal was done last week (per resident request) with Police detail. Mr. Oleson is preparing to purchase salt for Winter. Mr. Bunker mentioned some trees on Fremont Road which need attention; he will send a Request for Roadwork to Mr. Oleson.
- **Planning Department:** Mr. Hadik noted that the Cedarview Estates subdivision

is moving along; Grant Benson has agreed to put in a right turn lane which will become the egress for Ledge Road. Review is ongoing for the Crowley Woods subdivision. There are many safety issues needing to be addressed; the Planning Board is awaiting the developer's traffic report. Most improvements will be in Candia, such as the brush that has grown up to the edge of pavement on Crowley Road. Chester & Candia both have declared Crowley Woods to be a subdivision of regional impact; therefore SNHPC is involved. Mr. D'Angelo emphasized that it will be important to keep on top of the data that will drive the various departments (Fire, Police, etc.); Mr. Hadik added that the burden is on the applicant to obtain letters from Department Heads from both towns.

- **Police Department:** Chairman Berube noted that there were 2 DWIs this past weekend. The drug epidemic has made finding syringes more frequent; as well as white, powdery substances (in motor vehicles) – the latter requiring HAZMAT assistance. Mr. Oleson mentioned that the Highway Department finds syringes beside the roads; Chairman Berube advised the Highway crew to always wear gloves if handling syringes, Mr. Oleson confirmed that they do. Mr. Bolduc added that the Highway crew can always ask the Fire Department for assistance with this. Chairman Berube is going to look into purchasing a case of sharps containers for various Town departments.

3.3 Public Comment & Discussion: Intersection at the Center of Town

Joe Castricone expressed serious concern with motorists not pulling over for volunteer emergency response vehicles with their lights on; particularly in the center of town. Mr. Castricone feels that if there is a fatality due to an emergency responder not able to get to the scene because s/he is blocked at the intersection of routes 121 and 102, then this should be considered a fatality caused by danger of the intersection. Mr. Castricone believes that technology can be used to improve the situation, then it should be.

Mr. Bolduc noted that, technically, volunteer responders aren't allowed to speed when responding to an emergency. Mr. Bolduc feels it is his responsibility to protect his volunteers, and that the RSA states that motorists are not required to make way for volunteer emergency responders. Mr. D'Angelo suggested that those interested in getting volunteer responders more protection should go to Concord to try to change the law. Mr. D'Angelo also suggested handing out awareness flyers at Town Fair or submitting information to Chester Academy to put in their Newsletter. Mr. Castricone intends on creating a Public Safety Announcement and airing on Chester Cable TV.

It was reiterated that NHDOT is steadfast in its refusal to place traffic lights at the center of Town. Mr. Hadik reminded that last year, LED lights were installed at the center along with "Cross Traffic Does Not Stop" signs. Chairman Berube reminded that the flashing LED signs that display drivers' speed are approved by NHDOT only if the Town purchases them. NHDOT then would install the signs, and the Town must

maintain them.

Mr. Castricone mentioned that all Summer the 20 MPH lights in the School Zone have been flashing; Chairman Berube explained that the School is responsible for these—there is an issue that needed to be fixed, but since no one knew how to fix it, the School has elected to simply keep them flashing.

IV. Adjournment

The next meeting of the Highway Safety Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, November 14th, 2017 at 10:00am in the Municipal Complex Meeting Room.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 11:48am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Caroline R. Wilson, Recording Secretary

From: "Jean Packard" <chesterassr@gsinet.net>
To: "Aaron Berube" <aberube@gsinet.net>
Cc: "Andrew Hadik" <chstrpl@gsinet.net>, "Cass Buckley" <casschesterbos@outlook.com>
Sent: Friday, August 11, 2017 10:35:52 AM
Subject: RE: Quarterly meeting

Hi Aaron;

A quick, temporary fix to the parking at chester general store. Have Tony roll back the big boulders on the town property triangle as shaded on the attached map. It would create more room for snow plowing, more room for delivery trucks to maneuver, more room to exit/enter on 121 and parked cars could pull further over to the right when parking there (they already park there now). Once the grass is dead, Tony won't have to mow that area anymore either! Then the town could always gravel it eventually. And it won't cost anything now because Tony has the new tractor.

Jean E. Packard
Certified Property Assessor Assistant
Town of Chester, NH
 84 Chester St
 Chester, NH 03036
 Phone: 603-887-4045

