

**Town of Chester
Highway Safety Committee Meeting
Wednesday, June 28, 2023
Town Hall Meeting Room
Approved Minutes**

I Preliminaries

9:00am Call the Meeting to Order

Roll Call

Chairman's Additions or Deletions

Approval of Minutes – 3/8/2023

Any Other Old Business

Accident Reports – 3/1/2023 to 5/31/2023

Reports from Departments

Any Other New Business

Selectboard Request to Reduce Speed Limit to 25 MPH on Town Roads

Date of Next Meeting & Adjournment

1.1 Call to Order

Chairman Berube called this meeting of the Town of Chester Highway Safety Committee (HSC) to order at 9:02am.

1.2 Roll Call

Present:

Aaron Berube, Police Chief, Committee Chair

Myrick Bunker, Building Inspector

Paul Cavanaugh, Maintenance Director (arr. 9:16am)

Debra Doda, Town Administrator

Phil Gladu, Fire Chief

David LaVita, Resident

Jean Methot, Resident

Manette Pacheco, Resident

Justin Paquette, Lieutenant (Police)

James Piper, Supervisor of Roads

Dana Theokas, Selectwoman (arr. 9:05am)

1.3 Chairman's Additions or Deletions

None.

II. Old Business

2.1 Approval of Minutes: March 8, 2023

Mr. Methot moved to accept the Highway Safety Committee meeting minutes of March 8, 2023 with minor edits; Maintenance Director Cavanaugh seconded the motion. The vote was ten in the affirmative with Building Inspector Bunker abstaining; motion carried.

2.2 Any Other Old Business

None.

III. New Business

3.1 Accident Reports – March 1, 2023 through May 31, 2023

All members of the Highway Safety Committee were provided accident status reports for March 1, 2023 through May 31, 2023; please see attached.

Chairman Berube explained that there were 18 accidents reported during this time, including four injuries and one fatality. The fatal incident was on Towle Road and is still pending investigation, although preliminary findings suggest that speed and/or alcohol may have been factors.

3.2 Reports from Departments

Mr. Lavita: He observed a vehicle that seemed to purposely weave within a lane on Route 102 that had freshly painted fog lines.

Ms. Pacheco: She thanked the Highway Safety Committee for their role in getting the speed limit of the unpaved portion of Halls Village Road reduced to 25MPH.

Mr. Methot: Nothing to report.

Police Lt. Paquette: Nothing to report.

Supervisor of Roads Piper: Chairman Berube informed SOR Piper that a resident requested trimming the branches overhanging Town roads. SOR Piper explained that the Highway crew was actually out at this moment using the pole saw to do this. It was remarked that it would take significant additional resources to be able to perform this task at a greater magnitude.

Selectwoman Theokas: She suggested repairing a large rut at the edge of the Wason Pond Community Center parking lot & Raymond Rd.

Town Administrator Doda: Per TA Doda's request, SOR Piper explained that the trucks hauling materials out of the Stowe Rd. gravel operation ("Groundhog"/Garabedian) have agreed to turn left from Stowe Rd. onto Fremont Rd., then right onto Raymond Rd., and then right onto Towle Rd. to proceed back toward Meadow Fox Ln. where they are delivering a large amount of materials. This keeps them from using the red-listed Hanson Rd. bridge. Police Lt. Paquette requested that the PD be apprised of such information so that if complaints of thru trucking are made, they know how to address them.

Building Inspector Bunker: Nothing to report.

Fire Chief Gladu: The process of installing new / replacement address delineators for E911 compliance is ongoing. He praised Police, Fire & EMS personnel for their teamwork and professionalism on the night of the fatal Towle Rd. accident.

Chairman Berube: Nothing to report.

Maintenance Director Cavanaugh: Nothing to report.

3.3 Any Other New Business

None.

3.4 Selectboard Request to Reduce Speed Limit to 25 MPH on Town Roads

The Selectboard recently discussed reducing the speed limit on Town roads to 25MPH. The Selectboard agreed to have the Highway Safety Committee discuss this matter, and then to provide the Selectboard with recommendations.

There was a discussion of how and if this should be executed, which roads may be affected, and how to obtain residents' opinions on the matter.

Those present at this HSC meeting support administering a survey to residents to determine their thoughts on the matter, most likely via postal mail with return postage provided and a QR code / option to respond electronically. It was felt that a blanket change to all Town roads reducing the speed limit to 25MPH would not be desirable. TA Doda will forward this information to the Selectboard for discussion at their July 13th meeting. She will also price out the mailers & postage. TA Doda will then draft the survey & send it to the HSC members for suggestions before sending it to residents.

It was mentioned that a resident had reached out requesting that Hemlock Lane's speed limit be reduced to 25MPH; a traffic study was done, TA Doda will get that information to the resident.

The Selectboard request to reduce speed limit to 25MPH on Town roads, as well as overhanging branch trimming will be placed on the next HSC meeting agenda.

IV. Date of Next Meeting & Adjournment

The next meeting of the Highway Safety Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, September 20, 2023, at 9:00am in the Town Hall meeting room.

Building Inspector Bunker moved to adjourn the meeting; Maintenance Director Cavanaugh seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:51am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Caroline R. Wilson, Recording Secretary



Accident Status Report

Page: 1

From: 03/01/2023 Thru: 05/31/2023

06/27/2023

Location: (ALL)
 Street(s): (ALL)
 Zones: (ALL)
 Weekday(s): (ALL)

Case Number	Officer	State Rpt/Acc. Date & Time	Location / Street Names
23CHE-17-AC	4058 Operator> [REDACTED] Operator> [REDACTED]	Yes 03/04/2023 0635	P/L CHESTER TRANSFER STATION / 50 DUMP RD Veh# 1 Veh# 2
23CHE-18-AC POND RD	3147 Operator> [REDACTED]	Yes 03/07/2023 1414	NORTH POND WETLANDS CONSERVATION AREA / 119 N Veh# 1
23CHE-19-AC	3147 Operator> [REDACTED] Operator> [REDACTED]	Yes 03/13/2023 1149	11 HAVERHILL RD @ 19 RAYMOND RD Veh# 1 Veh# 2
23CHE-21-AC	4079 Operator> [REDACTED]	No 03/14/2023 0547	154 SANDOWN RD @ 13 WELLS VILLAGE RD Veh# 1
23CHE-20-AC	4079 Operator> [REDACTED]	No 03/14/2023 0504	78 RAYMOND RD Veh# 1
23CHE-23-AC	9749 Operator> [REDACTED]	Yes 03/14/2023 0641	543 RAYMOND RD Veh# 1
23CHE-22-AC	4057 Operator> [REDACTED]	Yes 03/15/2023 1626	54 TOWLE RD Veh# 1
23CHE-24-AC	9749 Operator> [REDACTED]	Yes 03/22/2023 0800	56 PHEASANT RUN DR Veh# 1
23CHE-25-AC	9749 Operator> [REDACTED] Operator> [REDACTED] Passenger> [REDACTED] Witness> [REDACTED] Witness> [REDACTED] Witness> [REDACTED]	Yes 03/30/2023 1121	9 HAVERHILL RD @ 1 RAYMOND RD Veh# 1 Veh# 2 Veh# 2 Veh# Veh# Veh#
23CHE-26-AC	0042 Operator> [REDACTED] Operator> [REDACTED]	Yes 03/31/2023 2151	HAVERHILL / 9 DERRY RD @ 1 CHESTER ST Veh# 1 Veh# 2
23CHE-27-AC	9749 Operator> [REDACTED] Passenger> [REDACTED] Operator> [REDACTED]	Yes 04/03/2023 0905	1 HAVERHILL RD @ 19 RAYMOND RD Veh# 1 Veh# 1 Veh# 2 Injured

Accident Status Report

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From: 03/01/2023 Thru: 05/31/2023

06/27/2023

	Witness> LENNON KEVIN	Veh#
23CHE-28-AC	<u>Officer</u> State Rpt/Acc. Date & Time 9749 Yes 04/06/2023 1429 Operator> [REDACTED] Operator> [REDACTED]	<u>Location / Street Names</u> 692 RAYMOND RD @ 2 SHAKER HEIGHTS LN Veh# 1 Veh# 2
23CHE-29-AC	<u>Officer</u> State Rpt/Acc. Date & Time 4031 Yes 04/10/2023 2304 Operator> [REDACTED]	<u>Location / Street Names</u> 239 CHESTER ST Veh# 1
23CHE-30-AC	<u>Officer</u> State Rpt/Acc. Date & Time 0119 Yes 04/25/2023 1539 Operator> [REDACTED] Operator> [REDACTED] Witness> [REDACTED]	<u>Location / Street Names</u> RAY T/L / 868 RAYMOND RD @ 15 HANSON RD Veh# 1 Veh# 2 Injured Veh#
23CHE-31-AC	<u>Officer</u> State Rpt/Acc. Date & Time 9749 Yes 05/04/2023 1406 Operator> [REDACTED] Operator> [REDACTED]	<u>Location / Street Names</u> 178 DERRY RD @ 27 SOUTH WOODS RD Veh# 1 Injured Veh# 2
23CHE-32-AC	<u>Officer</u> State Rpt/Acc. Date & Time 4079 Yes 05/12/2023 2138 Operator> [REDACTED]	<u>Location / Street Names</u> 98 FIDDLEHEAD LN Veh# 1
23CHE-33-AC	<u>Officer</u> State Rpt/Acc. Date & Time 0042 Yes 05/18/2023 2223 Operator> [REDACTED] Witness> [REDACTED] Witness> [REDACTED]	<u>Location / Street Names</u> 96 TOWLE RD Veh# 1 Fatality Veh# Veh#
23CHE-34-AC	<u>Officer</u> State Rpt/Acc. Date & Time 0042 Yes 05/20/2023 1604 Operator> [REDACTED] Operator> [REDACTED]	<u>Location / Street Names</u> 1 WEBSTER LN @ 199 DERRY RD Veh# 1 Injured Veh# 2

State Reports Required: 16
 # State Reports Not Required: 2