

**HSC Minutes Town of Chester  
Highway Safety Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
Meeting Room  
Approved Minutes**

**I. Preliminaries**

**Members Present:**

Tony Amato, Maintenance Supervisor  
Aaron Berube, Police Chief  
Ben Clark, Deputy Fire Chief  
Andrew Hadik, Planning Coordinator  
Scott Newnan, Fire Lieutenant  
Michael Oleson, Road Agent  
Jean Methot, President - Chester Historical Society

**Members Absent:**

Greg Bolduc, Fire Chief  
Myrick Bunker, Building Inspector  
Richard S. Trask, Selectman

**Agenda:**

Call to Order

Review and approve meeting minutes for August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Old Business:

Primex – Safe Driving Training Programs  
Fire Department call-response egress issue out Murphy Drive onto Route 102  
Highway Budgeting for:  
    "Stop Ahead" painting for Rte. 121 stops crossing Rte. 102  
    Striping of major road centerlines (discuss – Fremont & Shepard Home roads?)  
2016 Boy Scout Yard Sale  
Safety Vests  
Scarecrows  
Corner of Fremont Road and Route 102

New Business

Halloween 2016  
Grants

Department Reports:

Police Department - Accident Reports – August, September, & October  
Fire Department  
Highway Department  
Planning Board  
Maintenance Department  
Legislature

Adjournment

**I.1     *Call to Order***

The meeting of the Town of Chester Highway Safety Committee was called to order at 10:04am by Chairman Berube.

**II.     Approval of Minutes**

*August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016:* Mr. Hadik moved to approve these minutes as drafted; Deputy Chief Clark seconded the motion. The vote was five in favor with Deputy Chief Clark and Lieutenant Newnan abstaining due to absence from the meeting in question; so moved.

### III. **Old Business**

#### *Primex – Safe Driving Training Programs*

Mr. Hadik contacted Primex about their driver training programs, which are provided to Town Employees free of charge. Some classes include:

Collision Avoidance Class: (formerly called "Defensive Driving"). This course is 1.5 hours long, and is taught on site. Perhaps one or two classes could be scheduled, and employees invited to attend.

Stevens Driver Training Program: (a/k/a "Skid School"). This course, which is not taught in the Winter, is held at an airport runway. All Police Department members attend; this would be a useful course for anyone who drives for the Town.

Driving Simulator: This course is taught at the Primex office, and is time intensive. It is mainly geared towards those who are hesitant drivers, or those who have been in accidents.

The Town's Primex representative is Dave Witham. These courses, and many others, can be signed up for on the Primex website. It is unclear whether or not attending these courses will lower one's insurance rate.

#### *Fire Department call-response egress issue out Murphy Drive onto Route 102*

The Fire Department occasionally has difficulty exiting onto 102 via Murphy Drive, especially when multiple cars are present, such as the hours when school begins and ends, Town Fair, Boy Scout Yard Sale, etc. There is a second, blocked egress point directly onto 102; in order to utilize that exit, the drive would need to be unblocked, paved, and gated. There is some question as to whether or not DOT would have a problem with two paved access points to one property, and whether or not sight lines would be an issue.

Road Agent Oleson estimated that this work could cost \$30k. There was some discussion as to whether it should be put into the CIP or the funds requested via Warrant Article. Mr. Hadik does not believe that the residents are as aware of the problem as the Highway Safety Committee is, so a Warrant Article might have a difficult time passing. The Fire Department does not consider this egress as crucial as some other items they will be requesting this year, so would prefer not to move it up, should it be put into the CIP. As the School is only at ~65% occupancy, this discussion should be considered proactive rather than reactive.

A representative from DOT who is in charge of issuing permits should be invited to a site walk and/or meeting to determine whether or not opening this drive is feasible. Road Agent Oleson will contact DOT.

#### *Highway Budgeting for:*

*"Stop Ahead" painting for Rte. 121 stops crossing Rte. 102*

*Striping of major road centerlines (discuss – Fremont & Shepard Home roads?)*

Road Agent Oleson plans to request \$10k in his FY17-18 budget, and for every year afterwards, for painting stop and center lines on the Town's roads. He does not plan to specify which roads will be painted in order that those most in need can be done first. Roads must be wide enough to be center striped.

**Mr. Hadik moved that the Highway Safety Committee support budgeting for stop bars at intersections, and center striping of various main roads as determined to be warranted by the Committee; Maintenance Supervisor Amato seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; so moved.**

#### *2016 Boy Scout Yard Sale*

Mr. Hadik noted that the Boy Scout Yard Sale had gone better than anticipated; there were fewer attendees and less income, but the traffic and safety issues were improved, and they expect better attendance next year. He was interested in hearing if any members of the Committee had any comments about how the move from Wason Pond to the Town Fields had impacted highway safety; Police Chief Berube stated that they had had no issues. Maintenance Supervisor Amato added that the grass had recovered well. The Yard Sale will remain in that location in the future.

#### *Safety Vests*

Deputy Chief Clark had contacted Primex in order to procure highway safety vests, as the Town's previous insurance provider had made them available upon request. Unfortunately, Primex does not do the same; they said they could send one or two, but not enough to outfit the entire Fire, Highway, and Maintenance Departments.

#### *Scarecrows*

Mr. Methot inquired about accidents due to the Scarecrows in Town in October; Police Chief Berube stated that there had been none. Road Agent Oleson noted that while driving his dump truck, he had almost hit a visitor who had been pulled over halfway on the road, halfway on the shoulder and then suddenly drove onto the road without looking.

Mr. Methot stated that signs had been posted, and warnings printed on the maps, exhorting visitors to be careful on the roads; however, as Police Chief Berube said, 'you can't fix stupid'. Visitors need to pull off of the road 100%, and then look carefully before pulling back on; residents should be cautious and expect distracted drivers.

#### *Corner of Fremont Road and Route 102*

Maintenance Supervisor Amato raised the question of evergreen trees blocking the sightlines at the above referenced corner. This is not a new issue; Road Agent Oleson has visited the homeowner, who refuses to cut the trees down; as the trees are on State property, Gunnar and Bob from the State have also visited him with the same lack of success. It is possible that an accident will need to occur there before anything can be done. That said, Police Chief Berube noted that the only accidents at that corner have been weather or speed related; Road Agent Oleson added that one is not actually pulled out as far into the road as one might think. Road Agent Oleson volunteered to speak with the resident again.

### **IV. New Business**

#### *Halloween 2016*

Road Agent Oleson asked that in the future, cones be placed all the way up Chester Street to at least Gladys's house, and over storm drains. The cones had stopped short this year, and children were walking in the road, visitors were parking too close to Downtown, etc. Deputy Chief Clark explained that they had not only coned the fog lines, but also the center line in order to slow traffic down; as a result of people stealing 25-50% of their cones over the years, they had run short. Police Chief Berube, whose Department is having the same issue, will research purchasing more cones.

#### *Grants*

The Police Department has received a Homeland Security grant for \$16,628 to purchase new in-car computers and a second grant of \$4,500 for e-tickets and geo-mapping equipment and its installation.

He is in the process of purchasing the equipment. Eligibility for these grants is due to the presence of a Highway Safety Committee.

## V. Department Reports

### *Police Department - Accident Reports – August, September, & October*

<b>Month</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>Reason</b>
August 2016	2	Driver Error
	1	Driving while Distracted (texting, etc.)
	1	Other Violations

<b>Roads</b>	<b>Injury</b>
Haverhill	No
Chester Street	No
Raymond	No
Lane	No
Derry	Yes

<b>Month</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>Reason</b>
September 2016	1	Driving While Intoxicated

<b>Roads</b>	<b>Injury</b>
Derry	Yes (Serious Bodily Injury)

<b>Month</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>Reason</b>
October 2016	1	Equipment Failure
	1	Other Violations

<b>Roads</b>	<b>Injury</b>
Candia	Yes
East Derry	No

There have been two motor vehicle accidents with serious bodily injury on Derry Road since the August meeting. As a contrast, Raymond Road, which has center line rumble strips, has had no head-on collisions. Derry Road would be well served to have those strips installed; however, other towns are filling in their rumble strips due to resident complaints about noise.

Accidents in general are down, perhaps due to signage, LED lights, and increased enforcement. There was some discussion about enhanced stop signs with solar powered blinking LEDs; however, DOT refused Police Chief Berube's request to install those in Chester in order to avoid setting precedent.

### *Fire Department*

Nothing to report.

### *Highway Department*

Road Agent Oleson referenced a letter from DOT about the Shepherd Home Road bridge over the Exeter River. This bridge's culverts have deteriorated up to 30% and the bridge has been red-listed. Unfortunately, the wait list for Bridge Aid from the State is purportedly about 20 years long; Mr. Hadik will research this. The next step would be to reduce the weight limit on the bridge. Once the State determines that the bridge is unsafe, they will insist that it be closed completely.

He is also having issues attracting plow drivers and is currently short three. The State is having the same problem and at this point has no driver to plow Route 121 and 121A. Road Agent Oleson is in favor of removing the backhoe from next year's CIP list and replacing it with a new plow truck; he will attend tomorrow night's Planning Board meeting.

*Planning Board*

Mr. Hadik would like the residents to be made aware that the Town's roads take time to clear during and after a large snowstorm, and that they should have realistic expectations of same. Perhaps a message could be placed on the Chester Cable TV Channel. Road Agent Oleson noted that the roads are always plowed as well and as quickly as possible during school hours, but that during other times, it may take longer to get the work done. Main roads are plowed twice to every one time on side roads.

*Maintenance Department*

Nothing to report.

*Legislature*

There was no report as there was no Selectman in attendance.

VI. **Adjournment**

The next meeting of the Highway Safety Committee has been scheduled for Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017, at 10:00am in the Meeting Room.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 11:32 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra H. Doda  
Recording Secretary