

**Town of Chester
Highway Safety Committee Meeting
Tuesday, November 14th, 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
Parking Issue & Property Concerns: Chester General Store
Hart Roberts Road
Murphy Drive
Road Safety Audit from SNHPC
Haverhill Road at Jenkins Farm Road
Crowley Woods Subdivision
Accident Reports
Reports from Departments
Adjournment

1.1 Call to Order

Chairman Berube called this meeting of the Town of Chester Highway Safety Committee at 10:05am.

1.2 Roll Call

Staff Present:

Tony Amato, Maintenance Supervisor
Aaron Berube, Police Chief, Committee Chair
Myrick Bunker, Building Inspector / Code Enforcement Officer
Andrew Hadik, Planning Coordinator
Michael Oleson, Road Agent

Members of the Public Present:

Darrell Lockwood, Superintendent
Jean Methot

1.3 Chairman's Additions or Deletions

As Vice Chairman Newnan was unavailable for today's meeting, item *2.5 Road Safety Audit from SNHPC, follow up by Lt. Newnan, Data source from Michelle* will be

postponed to the next HSC meeting.

II. Old Business

2.1 Approval of Minutes

August 15, 2017: Mr. Bunker moved to accept the minutes as written; Mr. Oleson seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with abstentions from Messrs. Amato, Lockwood, and Methot; so moved.

2.2 Parking Issue & Property Concerns: Chester General Store

For those present that were less familiar with the situation, it was reiterated that parking, vehicular congestion, and lack of an enforced fire lane are ongoing issues at the Chester General Store. It is believed that the area used for parking in the front of the building is mostly Town property. Exact boundaries must be determined by a new survey (iron pins are gone); Mr. Oleson has been in touch with a surveyor and will follow up with him today for an estimate.

In a Town Meeting some years past, an easement was granted for steps in front of the building. Mr. Hadik offered to research this Warrant Article and bring the findings to the next Committee meeting.

2.3 Hart Roberts Road

Mr. Bunker has advised the owners of the new home at 43 Hart Roberts Road to turn their mailbox 90° so that it faces Hart Roberts Road; as of this meeting that has yet to be done. Mr. Bunker will speak with Emergency Management Director Gladu to see that the mailbox of 37 Hart Roberts Road is removed from the intersection of Hart Roberts and Halls Village Roads and placed appropriately per E911 regulations. That mailbox is believed to have been so placed per request of the Postal Service, who has indicated a preference not to drive up Hart Roberts Road; but it is a Class V road.

2.4 Murphy Drive

Mr. Oleson noted that Murphy Drive is ~3.5 to 4 feet too narrow for a legitimate turn lane to be added. Also, it is flanked by wetlands. It is agreed that the most viable solution to the issue (parents' cars blocking Fire Department egress) is to move forward with creating the emergency access road. The NH DOT has already approved utilization of the old road cut to Route 102, as long as a gate is installed restricting use to Fire Department business only. The project needs to be funded and surveyed--although this Committee can bring recommendations forth to the BOS, it will ultimately be the Fire Department's project to pursue.

2.5 Road Safety Audit

As of the last HSC meeting, Vice Chairman Newnan had a call into NH DOT Highway Safety Engineer Michelle Marshall regarding the source of the Road Safety Audit data; specifically, on the implications of how fatalities and/or debilitating injuries influence eligibility for NH DOT action. As Vice Chairman Newnan is not present today, this topic has been tabled to next meeting.

2.6 Haverhill Road at Jenkins Farm Road

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. Mr. Oleson was advised to have Town Engineer Adler make an assessment. Mr. Hadik noted that the Jenkins Farm road bond was just renewed for another 2 years.

2.7 Crowley Woods Subdivision

The developers of the Crowley Woods Subdivision had enlisted a firm to perform a traffic study, which resulted in the determination that Crowley Road can handle the impact of the development. However, another traffic study will have to be performed; this initial study was incomplete and used old census data. Apparently there are plans between the developer and the Town of Candia to alter Crowley Road; Mr. Hadik is unsure how this will affect Chester, but it is believed there won't be anything hugely unsafe. So far, the Conditions of Approval for Crowley Woods are quite comprehensive and include much detail on reciprocal agreements (i.e. Road Agents, Fire, Police, Ambulance, etc.)

2.8 102/121 Intersection: Stop Bars, LED Stop Signs, etc.

Mr. Hadik mentioned that NH DOT will pay for the initial painting of the "Stop Ahead" bars on Route 121; on the condition that a letter of commitment is produced, stating that the Town will maintain the stop bars in perpetuity. It was agreed that approximately \$1,000 should be budgeted (in the Highway Budget's Signs line). The Committee then discussed the option of installing Stop signs with static LED lights along the edge instead. Mr. Hadik will draft a letter to Michelle Marshall requesting NH DOT revisit the Town's installation of such signs. Chairman Berube felt it would be important to consider how bright any lighted signage would be for the people who live nearby. It was also mentioned that the signs displaying motorists' speed limits have been effective in reducing accidents in other areas, such as Plaistow.

Mr. Methot added that many citizens are upset over the ever-present dangers of the intersection at the Center of Town; he feels that the Town will have the public's support as proactive safety measures continue to be taken.

III. New Business

3.1 Accident Report Summary

Please see the detailed Accident Reports attached.

- **8/15/17 – 8/31/17:** 3 accidents, 0 injuries reported
- **9/1/17 – 9/30/17:** 6 accidents, 3 injuries reported
- **10/1/17 – 10/31/17:** 10 accidents, 5 injuries reported
- **11/1/17 – 11/14/17:** 5 accidents, 2 injuries reported

Regarding the use of the notation “Other Violation,” Chairman Berube explained that this could mean anything from speed, stop sign, following too close, etc.

Mr. Bunker noted that the Christmas Tree-shaped sign has been placed at the Congregational Church this past weekend; it is not yet determined whether this will cause a line of sight issue.

3.2 Reports from Departments

- **Planning:** SNHPC is set to perform two road safety audits, paid for by a grant from NH DOT. Both will study S-Curves; Route 102 at Hanson Road, and Route 121 at Route 121A. Once completed, SNHPC will provide recommendations.
- **Maintenance:** Mr. Amato mentioned that Ms. Reishus requested reflective markers for the entrance of the Wason Pond Community Center. Mr. Oleson will provide these; Mr. Amato will contact Mr. Myette of the Wason Pond Conservation and Recreation Commission for permission to place them.
- **Highway:** The Highway Department has been busy taking care of debris from the various recent wind storms; they are waiting for a bucket truck to come next week so that they may take care of hanging branches. The Department is ready for Winter, and all the contractors from last year will be plowing again this season.
- **Building:** When the Wason Pond Conservation & Recreation area was Silver Sands Campground, the main entrance was called Ash Street. Mr. Bunker explained that the Ash Street sign will be replaced, so that the buildings may be properly numbered per E911 regulations. Mr. Oleson will place the sign, and Mr. Bunker will ensure the appropriate parties are notified.
- **Police:** Chairman Berube asked the Committee their thoughts on the rumble strips on Route 102; Mr. Oleson noted that they seem to be causing the road to deteriorate. Other than that, Chairman Berube was pleased to announce that

the strips are thought to be responsible for the decrease in sideswipe accidents and vehicles going off the road.

Mr. Methot asked whether any accidents had resulted from this year's Scarecrow displays. As far as anyone in the Committee is aware, none were reported. Signs and Scarecrow map brochures urged all to proceed with caution.

Dr. Lockwood mentioned that the School Board has received complaints that 2 high school bus routes begin picking students up at ~5:50am, while it is still dark. First Student has been contacted about this, but it could take some time to resolve the issue. Chairman Berube noted that the PD has not received any similar complaints; and that the typical complaint is that parents' vehicles park the wrong way while waiting for the bus.

3.3 Any Other New Business

None.

IV. Adjournment

The next meeting of the Highway Safety Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, February 14th, 2018 at 10:00am in the Municipal Complex Meeting Room.

Mr. Methot 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



Accident Status Report

Page: 1

From: 08/15/2017 Thru: 08/31/2017

11/14/2017

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

17-49-AC	<u>Officer</u> 127	<u>State Rpt/Acc. Date & Time</u> Yes 08/18/2017 1336	<u>Location / Street Names</u> RAYMOND RD W HAVERHILL RD <i>Mobile Device</i>
17-50-AC	<u>Officer</u> 578	<u>State Rpt/Acc. Date & Time</u> Yes 08/19/2017 1239	<u>Location / Street Names</u> TERRY RD W HAVERHILL RD <i>Driver Error</i>
17-51-AC	<u>Officer</u> 831	<u>State Rpt/Acc. Date & Time</u> Yes 08/27/2017 1735	<u>Location / Street Names</u> CHESTER ST <i>Mobile Device</i>

State Reports Required: 3
State Reports Not Required: 0



Accident Status Report

Page: 1

From: 09/01/2017 Thru: 09/30/2017

11/14/2017

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

	Officer	State Rpt/Acc. Date & Time	Location / Street Names
17-52-AC	831	Yes 09/09/2017 2035	CHESTER ST Animal
17-54-AC	127	Yes 09/16/2017 2310	Location / Street Names RAYMOND RD & FREMONT RD DUI
17-53-AC	969	No 09/17/2017 1202	Location / Street Names SANDOWN RD & WELLS VILLAGE RD Equipment Failure/injured
17-55-AC	127	Yes 09/17/2017 2107	Location / Street Names RAYMOND RD & TOWLE RD Driver error
17-56-AC	204	Yes 09/21/2017 2045	Location / Street Names NORTH POND RD Driver error / injured
17-57-AC	578	Yes 09/22/2017 1755	Location / Street Names CHESTER ST & DERRY RD Driver error/injured

State Reports Required: 5
 # State Reports Not Required: 1



Accident Status Report

Page: 1

From: 10/01/2017 Thru: 10/31/2017

11/14/2017

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

Accident Number	Officer	State Rpt/Acc. Date & Time	Location / Street Names
17-58-AC	723	Yes 10/06/2017 2223	RAYMOND RD @ HAVERHILL RD Other violation / injured x4
17-59-AC	620	No 10/08/2017 1826	Location / Street Names IN FRONT OF 51 RAYMOND ROAD / RAYMOND RD Driver error
17-60-AC	969	Yes 10/10/2017 2043	Location / Street Names RAYMOND RD @ FREMONT RD Other violation / injured
17-61-AC	638	Yes 10/22/2017 0336	Location / Street Names CANDIA RD D W I
17-62-AC	820	Yes 10/25/2017 1220	Location / Street Names RAYMOND RD @ CHESTER ST Driver error
17-63-AC	820	Yes 10/28/2017 1031	Location / Street Names DERRY RD @ HAVERHILL RD Other Violation
17-64-AC	620	Yes 10/28/2017 1931	Location / Street Names IN FRONT OF HOUSE # 196 SANDOWN ROAD / SAND- Driver error
17-65-AC	620	Yes 10/29/2017 1820	Location / Street Names RAYMOND RD @ LAKE RD D W I
17-67-AC	127	Yes 10/31/2017 1500	Location / Street Names RAYMOND RD @ TOWLE RD Other Violation
17-66-AC	820	Yes 10/31/2017 2004	Location / Street Names PARKING LOT OF / CHESTER ST Veh# 2 Driver error

Parked Car/Runaway> *** NONE ***

‡ State Reports Required: 9
‡ State Reports Not Required: 1



Accident Status Report

Page: 1

From: 11/01/2017 Thru: 11/14/2017

11/14/2017

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

	Officer	State Rpt/Acc. Date & Time	Location / Street Names
17-68-AC	578	Yes 11/03/2017 1744	EAST BOUND / DERRY RD Other Violation / injury
17-69-AC	020	Yes 11/05/2017 1016	LANE RD Driver error / injury
17-70-AC	578	Yes 11/09/2017 1944	FREMONT RD DUI
17-71-AC	578	Yes 11/11/2017 1947	CANTON RD Driver error
17-72-AC	638	Yes 11/13/2017 1716	RAYMOND RD Equipment Failure

State Reports Required: 5
State Reports Not Required: 0