

**Town of Chester
Highway Safety Committee Meeting
Tuesday, March 19th, 2019
Municipal Complex Meeting Room
Approved Minutes**

I Preliminaries

9:00am Call the Meeting to Order
Roll Call
Chairman's Additions or Deletions
Approval of Minutes
Fire Department Emergency Egress
Road Repairs
Parking Issue & Property Concerns at Chester General Store
OSOW Permitting Software
Road Safety Audit
Accident Reports
Reports from Departments
Establish Committee Members / Vote
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 9:06am.

1.2 Roll Call

Present:

Aaron Berube, Police Chief, Committee Chair
Greg Bolduc, Fire Chief
Myrick Bunker, Building Inspector / Code Enforcement Officer
Stephen D'Angelo, BOS Liaison
Andrew Hadik, Planning Coordinator
Darrell Lockwood, Chester Academy Superintendent
Jean Methot, Resident
Scott Newnan, Fire Lieutenant
Michael Oleson, Road Agent (arrived 9:24am, departed 10:16am)

Others Present at Various Times:

Sam Nasr, Owner of Chester General Store (arrived 9:18am)

1.3 Chairman's Additions or Deletions

None.

II. Old Business

2.1 Approval of Minutes: December 18th, 2018

Mr. Methot moved to accept the Highway Safety Committee meeting minutes of December 18th, 2018 as written; Planning Coordinator Hadik seconded the motion. The vote was eight in favor with Messrs. Nasr and Oleson yet to arrive; so moved.

2.2 Fire Department Emergency Egress

Parents picking up and dropping off their children at Chester Academy & forming multiple lanes of traffic have been blocking Fire Department personnel from entering or exiting Murphy Drive during emergencies. A FD emergency egress road onto Raymond Road has already been surveyed & engineered and is expected to cost about \$90k to install. Per the HSC's earlier request, the Planning Board decoupled the FD paving & egress road projects and gave the egress road project high priority.

The BOS have discussed the egress road but have not yet put it in the CIP. Selectman D'Angelo anticipates that getting the Budget Committee's approval to install the road will be a challenge. Superintendent Lockwood noted that the draft BOS minutes of 2/21/2019 show that the BOS were concerned with the initial design of Murphy Drive and that they supported an egress road.

The town has been exploring the option to purchase the adjacent property (78 Raymond Road) and it is believed that this has become a distraction to the issue at hand. It was agreed that even if the town bought 78 Raymond Road, it would probably not solve the FD egress issue. It was the consensus of the HSC that this and other alternatives to the egress road (such as extending Murphy Drive to Stockman Hill Road) are "million-dollar solutions to a \$90k issue". Selectman D'Angelo felt that, since full-day kindergarten has just passed, a solution should be in place by September to protect everyone. Road Agent Oleson confirmed that the emergency egress road could be built the same season it is approved; probably within 90 days.

On behalf of the HSC, Fire Chief Bolduc and Planning Coordinator Hadik will request to appear before the BOS to urge them to move forward on building the FD emergency egress road.

2.3 Road Repairs

Selectman D'Angelo invited Road Agent Oleson to tonight's Budget Committee meeting to discuss long-term planning for funding maintenance and improvement of town roads; many of which are in terrible condition.

Road Agent Oleson noted that things are indeed a mess; another culvert has failed on East Derry Road today. Superintendent Lockwood suggested budgeting \$1 million per year indefinitely; Road Agent Oleson felt that wouldn't be sufficient, and much catching up is necessary. The Highway Department is applying \$5k in cold patch daily; if significant funding is not approved this year, Road Agent Oleson fears that the Highway Department will need to add at least \$200k to next year's budget.

Superintendent Lockwood stated that a bus hit a bump on Fremont Road so hard that its mirrors fell off. It was noted that Fremont Road never got a wear course after it was done ~10 years ago; Road Agent Oleson explained that this hardly matters – other roads that *did* get wear coursing are also in failure because so many of these roads lack proper drainage.

Road Agent Oleson added that North Pond Road needs engineering and wetland studies which entail a lengthy process. Besides redoing roads such as Fremont, Candia, Halls Village, and

others, there are also five failed culverts which will cost at least \$450k each to repair.

Educating the public and communicating from one board or department to the next were agreed to be critical steps in gaining any traction with this (or any) serious town issue. Some potential funding strategies were discussed. It was agreed that even if funding one project shouldn't negatively impact other projects, it often does.

2.4 Parking Issues & Property Concerns at Chester General Store

Chairman Berube brought Mr. Nasr up to speed on the parking & property issues at the Chester General Store. Chairman Berube explained that the HSC is advisory in nature and is always seeking stakeholder involvement. Mr. Nasr noted that there is more available parking since a former business recently relocated.

Mr. Nasr offered to pay for signs reading "5 [or 10] Minute Parking Only"; but the HSC explained that if a fire lane is added and enforced, no parking at all would be allowed along the store. Chairman Berube assured that the HSC is not trying to take business away from Mr. Nasr; Mr. Nasr understood.

Chairman Berube asked Mr. Nasr if he would be willing to direct vendors to park in a different spot to see if improves the situation; Mr. Nasr is glad to.

This item will remain on the agenda.

2.5 Oversize/overweight (OSOW) Permitting Software

Three points of contact were needed to implement the oversize/overweight permitting software; Road Agent Oleson and Police Chief Berube agreed to be contacts and Planning Coordinator Hadik will request BOS Chair Owens to be the third.

This item will remain on the agenda.

2.6 Road Safety Audit

A segment of Route 102 near the Derry line was suggested for a road safety audit; NHDOT denied the request since the driver at fault in a fatal accident there was found to have been impaired. Please see letter attached.

The NHDOT typically focuses on correcting dangerous roads at which a fatality or lifelong debilitating injury has occurred. Chairman Berube noted that once an accident report is submitted, the PD can't legally follow up on it. Since the true quantity or extent of lifelong debilitating injuries from an accident in any area is unclear, it is challenging getting NHDOT to engage in mitigating hazardous conditions.

III. New Business

3.1 Accident Reports – December 2018 and January & February 2019

Chairman Berube will forward the accident report to the Recording Secretary -- please see attached.

3.2 Reports from Departments

- **Highway:** Road Agent Oleson hopes winter is over because he has been forced to tap into plow funds in order to pay for cold patching. While he would prefer to give residents a chance to vote on this, it's become necessary, and BOS Chair Owens has given him the go-ahead. He and his crews are working seven days a week on repairs; dirt roads are particularly sloppy and gravel is being applied in the hopes that it will hold things together until more sustainable solutions can be applied. The road crews do the best they can with the resources available to them to keep the roads passable for residents and emergency vehicles.

A plow contractor's truck was damaged when the wing caught a pothole on Jennifer Drive; the town will pay the \$3,500 in damages as it was not the driver's fault and insurance denied the claim.

Selectman D'Angelo asked why there were cones on Towle Road recently; Road Agent Oleson explained that a culvert too small was blocked with debris.

- **Fire:** Members of the Fire Department have been advised to be cautious answering calls due to the poor condition of many roads; this will naturally slow the department's response. Selectman D'Angelo felt this was an excellent example of the kind of information that is lacking at Town Meeting.
- **Selectmen:** Nothing to report
- **School:** Superintendent Lockwood urged everyone to read the BOS meeting minutes of 2/21/2019 once approved; the Selectmen were in support of the Fire Department egress road.
- **Planning:** Nothing to report
- **Building:** Nothing to report
- **Police:** Chairman Berube acknowledged that the roads are terrible. One cruiser's windshield was broken by road debris. Front end alignments will certainly be in order for the fleet. There was another incident in which a cruiser hit a parked vehicle; he has ordered louder buzzers (which go off when the vehicle has not been put in park).

3.3 Establish Committee Members / Vote

Chairman Berube explained that every two years, the HSC must evaluate / vote on membership. Chairman Berube suggested this be postponed to the next meeting; the Committee agreed.

IV. Adjournment

The next meeting of the Highway Safety Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, June 19th, 2019 at 9:00am in the Municipal Complex Meeting Room.

Mr. Methot moved to adjourn the meeting; Building Inspector Bunker seconded the

204 **motion. The vote was nine in the affirmative with Road Agent Oleson having departed**
206 **the meeting; so moved.**

206 The meeting was adjourned at 10:33am.

208 Respectfully Submitted,
210 Caroline R. Wilson, Recording Secretary



Victoria F. Sheahan
Commissioner

CHESTER
NH 102 segment
Road Safety Audit application

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



William Cass, P.E.
Assistant Commissioner

Bureau of Highway Design
Room 200
Tel. (603) 271-2171
Fax (603) 271-7025

February 21, 2019

Mr. Andrew Hadik
Planning Coordinator
84 Chester Street
Chester, NH 03036

Dear Mr. Hadik:

I am writing to notify you that the NHDOT has evaluated the Town's application for a Road Safety Audit for a segment of NH 102 and has determined that an RSA is not justified. In reviewing the application's supporting information we found that the fatal crash that occurred in 2015 was caused by an impaired driver and thus would not be correctible with infrastructure improvements. Furthermore, the narrow width of NH 102 that was noted among the Town's safety concerns extends over several miles of the road and would be beyond the ability of the State's Highway Safety Improvement Program to correct.

In lieu of a formal RSA, the Department will perform an informal safety reconnaissance as resources permit to evaluate the subject area and determine if low-cost safety improvements are available and feasible. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "MJDugas".

Michael J. Dugas, P.E.
State Highway Safety Engineer

MJD

cc: R. Radwanski – NHDOT District 5 Engineer
A. Yu – Southern NH Planning Commission

3:21 Highway Design Safety RSA ASH13 app final Chester NH 102 Chester RSA response 2/16/19.docx

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TELEPHONE: 603-271-3734 • FAX: 603-271-3814 • TDD: RELAY NH 1-800-735-2864 • INTERNET: WWW.NHDOT.COM



Accident Status Report

Page: 1

From: 12/01/2018 Thru: 12/31/2018

06/21/2019

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

	<u>Officer</u>	<u>State Rpt/Acc. Date & Time</u>	<u>Location / Street Names</u>
18-83-AC	578	No 12/03/2018 1740	RAYMOND RD
18-84-AC	820	Yes 12/12/2018 0150	CHESTER ROD AND GUN CLUB / ROD & GUN CLUB RD
18-85-AC	723	Yes 12/14/2018 1645	RAYMOND RD @ HAVERHILL RD
18-86-AC	723	Yes 12/14/2018 2125	RAYMOND RD @ HAVERHILL RD
18-87-AC	831	Yes 12/18/2018 0445	RAYMOND RD
18-88-AC	820	Yes 12/23/2018 0414	DERRY RD
18-89-AC	638	Yes 12/25/2018 1559	HAVERHILL RD @ SANDOWN RD
18-90-AC	869	Yes 12/28/2018 1123	CHASE RD
18-91-AC	620	Yes 12/30/2018 1939	IN FRONT OF # 188 / SANDOWN RD

State Reports Required: 8
State Reports Not Required: 1



Accident Status Report

Page: 1

From: 01/01/2019 Thru: 01/31/2019

06/21/2019

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

19-1-AC	<u>Officer</u> 831	<u>State Rpt/Acc. Date & Time</u> Yes 01/01/2019 0118	<u>Location / Street Names</u> PARTRIDGE LN
19-2-AC	<u>Officer</u> 831	<u>State Rpt/Acc. Date & Time</u> Yes 01/01/2019 0645	<u>Location / Street Names</u> SHEPARD HOME RD
19-3-AC	<u>Officer</u> 869	<u>State Rpt/Acc. Date & Time</u> Yes 01/03/2019 0529	<u>Location / Street Names</u> FREMONT RD
19-4-AC	<u>Officer</u> 869	<u>State Rpt/Acc. Date & Time</u> Yes 01/03/2019 0716	<u>Location / Street Names</u> WEBSTER LN
19-5-AC	<u>Officer</u> 620	<u>State Rpt/Acc. Date & Time</u> No 01/03/2019 0810	<u>Location / Street Names</u> DERRY RD @ HARANTIS LAKE RD EXT
19-6-AC	<u>Officer</u> 820	<u>State Rpt/Acc. Date & Time</u> Yes 01/03/2019 0639	<u>Location / Street Names</u> FREMONT RD
19-7-AC	<u>Officer</u> 831	<u>State Rpt/Acc. Date & Time</u> Yes 01/04/2019 2000	<u>Location / Street Names</u> CHESTER ST
19-8-AC	<u>Officer</u> 820	<u>State Rpt/Acc. Date & Time</u> Yes 01/08/2019 1000	<u>Location / Street Names</u> RAYMOND RD
19-9-AC	<u>Officer</u> 820	<u>State Rpt/Acc. Date & Time</u> Yes 01/15/2019 1204	<u>Location / Street Names</u> RAYMOND RD @ HAVERHILL RD
19-10-AC	<u>Officer</u> 869	<u>State Rpt/Acc. Date & Time</u> Yes 01/16/2019 0515	<u>Location / Street Names</u> RIVER / TOWLE RD
19-11-AC	<u>Officer</u> 638	<u>State Rpt/Acc. Date & Time</u> Yes 01/17/2019 1755	<u>Location / Street Names</u> DERRY RD
19-12-AC	<u>Officer</u> 820	<u>State Rpt/Acc. Date & Time</u> Yes 01/30/2019 0756	<u>Location / Street Names</u> RAYMOND RD

State Reports Required: 11
State Reports Not Required: 1



Accident Status Report

Page: 1

From: 02/01/2019 Thru: 02/28/2019

06/21/2019

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

19-13-AC	<u>Officer</u> 887	<u>State Rpt/Acc. Date & Time</u> Yes 02/02/2019 2142	<u>Location / Street Names</u> DERRY RD
19-14-AC	<u>Officer</u> 620 Pedestrian> MCCONN ROBERT Pedestrian> WELLS MICHAEL	<u>State Rpt/Acc. Date & Time</u> No 02/10/2019 1055	<u>Location / Street Names</u> IN THE DRIVEWAY / HOLMAN WAY Veh# 1 Veh# 2
19-15-AC	<u>Officer</u> 820	<u>State Rpt/Acc. Date & Time</u> No 02/12/2019 1605	<u>Location / Street Names</u> DERRY RD
19-16-AC	<u>Officer</u> 831	<u>State Rpt/Acc. Date & Time</u> No 02/16/2019 0818	<u>Location / Street Names</u> WEBSTER LN @ DERRY RD
19-17-AC	<u>Officer</u> 638	<u>State Rpt/Acc. Date & Time</u> No 02/16/2019 1554	<u>Location / Street Names</u> IN THE DRIVEWAY OF / DERRY RD
19-18-AC	<u>Officer</u> 127	<u>State Rpt/Acc. Date & Time</u> Yes 02/25/2019 0920	<u>Location / Street Names</u> SANDOWN RD @ CROSS RD
19-19-AC	<u>Officer</u> 127	<u>State Rpt/Acc. Date & Time</u> Yes 02/28/2019 1121	<u>Location / Street Names</u> RAYMOND RD @ HANSON RD

State Reports Required: 3
State Reports Not Required: 4

