

**Town of Chester  
Highway Safety Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
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  
Mailboxes / Guardrails: Hart Roberts Road  
Emergency Egress: Fire Department  
Digital Speed Signs  
Roundabout  
Flashing STOP Signs  
OSOW Permitting Software  
Accident Reports  
Reports from Departments  
Establish Committee Members / Vote  
Fund for Unanticipated Road Repairs  
Date of Next Meeting & 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***

Present:

Aaron Berube, Police Chief, Committee Chair  
Greg Bolduc, Fire Chief  
Myrick Bunker, Building Inspector / Code Enforcement Officer  
Stephen D'Angelo, BOS Liaison  
Darrell Lockwood, Superintendent  
Scott Newnan, Fire Department  
Michael Oleson, Road Agent

***1.3 Chairman's Additions or Deletions***

Per Selectman D'Angelo's request, road repair fund was added to New Business.

## **II. Old Business**

### ***2.1 Approval of Minutes***

***February 14, 2018: Selectman D'Angelo moved to accept the minutes as written; Building Inspector Bunker seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; so moved.***

### ***2.2 Parking Issue & Property Concerns: Chester General Store***

Lt. Newnan explained that code allows prohibition of parking on fire access roads. Lt. Newnan recently discussed the situation with Derry Fire Chief Scott Jackson, who noted that the easiest way to attain enforceability is via ordinance prohibiting parking in front of businesses. Fire Chief Bolduc suggested that if parking were prohibited in front of the building at 4 Haverhill Road, this would allow emergency vehicles access as well as parking for the businesses.

A certain business owner's vehicle is often parked in a spot which is believed to be part Town, part private property. However, it was noted that this individual has been given permission by the owner of the building to park as such. Trucks making deliveries to the businesses also exacerbate congestion.

Chairman Berube noted that since the majority of the parking area is a Town road, the BOS could authorize placing "No Parking" signs on the premises (just not on the buildings themselves without permission from the owner). Road Agent Oleson noted that a survey still must be performed which could cost upwards of \$5-6k; it's a very old piece of land and extensive research would likely be necessary.

Fire Chief Bolduc noted that he does not wish to see businesses impacted negatively by any parking restrictions. He felt that if a "no parking in front of businesses" ordinance were enacted, it would negatively impact those businesses that don't have the same issues because they are not on Town property. Planning Coordinator Hadik (unable to attend) has been doing research on the existing plans and is going to produce a layout proposal.

Superintendent Lockwood suggested meeting with the affected property / business owners to see if a simple agreement may be reached. Others felt that it would be crucial to follow procedures to ensure all transactions are done publicly and transparently.

Representatives from the Highway Safety Committee will request to meet with the BOS sometime in August to recommend moving forward with obtaining a survey. Selectman D'Angelo recommended that all affected parties be invited to such meeting; he will ask BOS AA Doda to assist with this.

This item will remain on the agenda.

### ***2.3 Hart Roberts Road -- Mailboxes***

The mailboxes of Hart Roberts Road residents have been placed on Halls Village Road by request of the Postal Service, which refuses to deliver to “private roads”. Building Inspector Bunker explained the importance of E-911 compliance to the supervisor at the Derry Post Office and has stressed the fact that Hart Roberts Road is *not* a private road.

Fire Chief Bolduc wondered if an ordinance could be created to remedy this. Mr. Bunker thought it would be possible, but warned that it wouldn’t keep citizens from being stuck in the middle. This will be an issue until it’s resolved by USPS and E-911.

This item will be removed from Old Business until further discussion is warranted.

### ***2.4 Hart Roberts Road -- Guardrails***

A property owner cut trees on Town property along Hart Roberts Road without permission. The trees were a natural barrier keeping vehicles from going off the road in extreme conditions. This issue was brought to the BOS, who elected not to move forward with placing guardrails. Since then, a Town plow contractor’s private vehicle went off the road; it’s the Town’s burden to pay for damages.

Since the BOS voted not to move forward with acting on this, it was agreed that there is nothing for this Committee to discuss.

This item will be removed from Old Business until further discussion is warranted.

### ***2.5 Fire Department Emergency Egress***

Road Agent Oleson showed the Committee copies of the surveyed site plan recently done by Randy Dockert. Mr. Oleson will contact Bill Gregsak to engineer a design for the emergency egress; this will likely cost \$1,500. The \$2,500 bill for the site plan will be forwarded to Planning Coordinator Hadik as CIP monies will be used.

It was suggested that 2 “Do Not Enter” signs be placed where the egress meets Route 102 instead of a gate. Some felt that motorists will try to sneak in that way; cones will be placed during Town Fair and other busy events.

This item will remain on the agenda.

### ***2.6 Digital Speed Signs***

Chairman Berube explained that NH Highway Safety offers a 50% grant for digital speed signs, but they cannot be permanently mounted. Chairman Berube suggested purchasing 2 and placing 1 on Derry Road & 1 on Raymond Road; in both places where the speed limit changes from 40 MPH to 30 MPH. It was felt that the programmable models would be preferable as they would allow the speed limit to change during certain times (School Zone). These cost approximately \$3,700 each.

Dr. Lockwood suggested the School pay for the one to be placed by the School; they can't find parts to repair the old ones.

Selectman D'Angelo suggested placing one on Route 102 by Wason Pond as well; he witnesses vehicles going by at 50-60 MPH. Selectman D'Angelo also suggested an analysis be done to determine the best placement for the signs so that a CIP proposal may be composed.

Fire Chief Bolduc will speak with Emergency Management Director Gladu to determine if radar equipment could be attached to the existing electronic signs. Selectman D'Angelo cautioned that some are opposed to the use of such electronic signs for anything other than emergencies.

Chairman Berube will get hard costs for solar-powered digital speed signs.

This item will remain on the agenda.

## ***2.7 Roundabout***

As there is a meeting scheduled in August with representatives from NHDOT, this item will remain on the agenda.

## ***2.8 Flashing STOP Signs***

Chairman Berube spoke with a NHDOT representative and the flashing STOP signs are supposed to be installed by July.

Selectman D'Angelo will ask BOS AA Doda to follow up on this.

This item will remain on the agenda.

## ***2.9 OSOW Permitting Software***

Planning Coordinator Hadik had informed Chairman Berube of the NHDOT's current Oversize / Overweight (OSOW) permit software project. The software will streamline the process of deeming roads impassable to oversize / overweight vehicles. In the near future, commercial vehicles will be required to employ NHDOT-regulated GPS; "red" and

“yellow” roads, for example, will be apparent. Chairman Berube, Road Agent Oleson, and others present felt this was a great program.

This item will remain on the agenda.

### **III. New Business**

#### ***3.1 Accident Reports Summary***

Accidents were not specifically discussed; Chairman Berube will email reports to Committee members after the meeting.

#### ***3.2 Reports from Departments***

- **Fire Department:** Nothing to report.
- **Building Department:** Nothing to report.
- **Highway Department:** Road Agent Oleson wished to comment on a conversation that took place at the recent Chester Technical Review Committee (CTRC) meeting on the Pipit Estates subdivision: Superintendent Lockwood had preferred that the buses stop at the intersection of Route 121-A and Pipit Drive. Road Agent Oleson felt strongly that bus stop should be at the cul-de-sac so that students aren't put in harm's way at the busy curve in 121-A.

Dr. Lockwood clarified that it wasn't a matter of time on the bus, as much as the buses pulling back out onto 121-A.

- **BOS:** Nothing to report.
- **School:** Nothing to report.
- **Police Department:** Accidents are up, which is normal considering the season.

#### ***3.3 Establish New Committee Members / Vote***

The Committee agreed to table this as Planning Coordinator Hadik is absent today.

#### ***3.4 Fund for Unanticipated Road Repairs***

The recent Cole Road repairs were used as an example of a significant, unplanned expense; \$75k worth of repairs were made and it's still only considered a temporary fix. Selectman D'Angelo suggested a fund be created--with a starting balance of \$100k—for such unforeseen, unplanned road repairs.

Road Agent Oleson agreed that this was a great idea; but reminded that he tried to get something like this created a few years ago and the Budget Committee shot it down. Fire Chief Bolduc agreed, noting that voters also don't seem to want to put money aside.

Selectman D'Angelo suggested researching the past 3-5 years and determining an annual expense average as a starting point; Road Agent Oleson will work on this and will request to appear before the BOS to discuss.

#### **IV. Adjournment**

The next meeting of the Highway Safety Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 10:00am in the Municipal Complex Meeting Room.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00am.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Caroline R. Wilson, Recording Secretary