

**Town of Chester
Highway Safety Committee Meeting
Wednesday, September 18, 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
- Parking Issue & Property Concerns at Chester General Store
- OSOW Permitting Software
- Cone Purchase
- Stop Sign at Corner of Town Hall
- Road Safety Audits Presentation – Carl Eppich of SNHPC
- Accident Reports
- Reports from Departments
- Establish Committee Members / Vote
- Road Concerns – John Sable of 724 Fremont Road
- Town Fair Parking
- 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
- Myrick Bunker, Building Inspector / Code Enforcement Officer
- Paul Cavanaugh, Maintenance Supervisor
- Steve D’Angelo, Selectman
- Andrew Hadik, Planning Coordinator
- Scott Newnan, Fire Lieutenant

Others Present at Various Times:

- Carl Eppich, Southern NH Planning Commission (departed 9:53am)
- Sam Nasr, Chester General Store Owner (departed 9:53am)
- John Sable, Resident, 724 Fremont Road (departed 10:14am)

1.3 Chairman’s Additions or Deletions

Chairman Berube suggested removing “3.3 – Letter from DOT for 102 / 121” from the agenda as this was discussed at last week’s BOS meeting.

In consideration of Mr. Eppich’s time, Chairman Berube suggested skipping old business and addressing “3.2 – Road Safety Audits presentation” first.

52 John Sable of 724 Fremont Road and Town Fair parking were added to new business,
54 respectively.

56 **II. Old Business**

58 **2.1 Approval of Minutes: June 19, 2019**

60 **Planning Coordinator Hadik moved to accept the Highway Safety Committee meeting**
62 **minutes of June 19, 2019 as written; Building Inspector Bunker seconded the motion.**
64 **The vote was three in favor with Messrs. D’Angelo, Hadik, and Newnan abstaining due to**
66 **absence; approval of these minutes was tabled to the next meeting.**

68 **2.2 Parking Issue & Property Concerns at Chester General Store**

66 Chester General Store owner Sam Nasr appeared before the committee to discuss parking
68 concerns at 4 Haverhill Road. Mr. Nasr has been actively asking delivery drivers not to park in
70 front, to which they have been amenable. However, when Mr. Nasr asks some customers not to
72 park in front, they often get upset. Mr. Nasr feels that delineating a fire lane would hurt
74 business; but “15 Minute Parking” signs would be an acceptable solution. Mr. Nasr also noted
76 that since the nail salon closed, the parking situation has improved. Mr. Nasr originally planned
78 to have the lot striped in the next few weeks but agreed to postpone per the suggestion of
80 Planning Coordinator Hadik.

76 Relative to Chester General Store, “Parking issue, property concerns” and “stakeholders input
78 for resolutions” will remain on the agenda.

80 **2.3 Oversize/overweight (OSOW) Permitting Software**

80 Planning Coordinator Hadik is still working on adding data in the OSOW permitting software.

82 This item will be removed from the agenda.

84 **2.4 Cone Purchase**

86 Chairman Berube noted that over one hundred cones have been purchased recently; he and
88 Fire Lieutenant Newnan plan to mark them in-house (it is too expensive to have done
90 commercially). Chairman Berube explained that the town still needs more cones; Selectman
92 D’Angelo suggested he create warrant article for this.

92 This item will be removed from the agenda.

94 **III. New Business**

96 **3.1 Stop Sign at Corner of Town Hall**

98 An individual recently suggested placing a stop sign at the corner of town hall where the main
100 parking lot and the horseshoe converge. Those present did not feel a stop sign was warranted;
102 they felt it would cause problems in the winter with plowing, etc. If and when the PD is redone,
this issue will likely be alleviated.

This item will be removed from the agenda.

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3.2 Road Safety Audits Presentation – Carl Eppich of SNHPC

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Carl Eppich of Southern NH Planning Commission (SNHPC) appeared before the committee to discuss potential road safety audits and regional signal warrant studies; he shared a letter that will soon be sent to municipalities. The safety audits are done at no cost to the town and are paid with Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funds. To qualify for a safety audit, there must have been a death or incapacitating injury along a section of a road related to the qualities of that road (engineering, geometry); and may not have been caused by intoxicated driving.

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There have already been ~three road safety audits at the intersection of routes 102 & 121.

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Other areas suggested for a safety audit were:

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- Route 102 near the Derry line: NHDOT has rejected road safety audit requests previously because it would not be a simple fix. There is a narrow shoulder and hilly terrain; the area is very difficult in winter with vehicles going off the road. There had also been two fatalities in recent years due to intoxicated driving.
- The curve on route 121 south of the 102/121 intersection.
- Route 102 near Rod & Gun Club Road: a child on a bicycle was struck and killed.
- Route 102 near Wason Pond and Wason Road: perhaps a cross walk could be installed. A parking ordinance is in the works for Wason Pond; perhaps “No Parking” signs could be placed on 102. It was mentioned that there is a passing zone in this area which complicates matters.
- North Pond, Old Sandown, Ledge and Hemlock at route 102: there was much discussion on this “spread out five-way intersection.” Selectman D’Angelo suggested prohibiting left turns, perhaps during certain times of day, from these four roads onto 102. It was felt that this wouldn’t stop vehicles from turning left, it would just relocate where they do so, which could be more dangerous. Planning Coordinator Hadik noted that there has long been a line in the CIP for North Pond Road improvements.

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Planning Coordinator Hadik mentioned that Mike Dugas of NHDOT had offered to do a site walk of areas of concern; Mr. Eppich suggested following up with Mr. Dugas to make this happen – specifically for the areas of 102 near the Derry line and 102 near Wason Pond.

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3.3 Accident Reports – 06/01/2019 through 08/31/2019

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Please see the 06/01/2019 through 08/31/2019 accident status report attached.

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3.4 Reports from Departments

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- **Building:** Nothing to report.
- **Maintenance:** Nothing to report.
- **Selectmen:** Selectman D’Angelo has observed that the stop sign at the intersection of Reed Road and Fremont Road seems to have gotten turned (possibly while roadwork was being done). Recording Secretary Wilson will submit a Request for Action via the Highway Department’s page on ChesterNH.org.
- **Planning:** It was recently discovered that the triangle of land in front of the Chester General Store (both paved and unpaved areas) is still owned by the state. Road Agent

154 Oleson should be made aware of this. Also, the town has paid for the iron fence on that
land to be repaired several times. Planning Coordinator Hadik suggested the BOS
request NHDOT deed this piece of land to the town.

- 156 • **Fire:** Nothing to report.
- 158 • **Police:** Nothing to report.

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160 **3.5 Establish Committee Members / Vote**

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162 Chairman Berube explained that every two years, the HSC must evaluate and vote on
membership. Chairman Berube suggested this be postponed to the next meeting when more
members are present; the committee agreed.

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166 **3.6 Road Concerns – John Sable of 724 Fremont Road**

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168 John Sable of 724 Fremont Road appeared before the committee to discuss concerns with the
hill / curve in front of his residence. Since moving in, there have been three incidences of
vehicles driving off the road and into his yard. One of these vehicles hit his mailbox; and all
170 three narrowly missed a rock wall and the leach field. Mr. Sable shared photos of tire tracks left
in the most recent incident on September 10th. There is also a line-of-sight issue when leaving
172 Mr. Sable's driveway in a compact car. It was noted that a streetlamp used to illuminate this
area but was discontinued. Also, more speed limit signs have been placed on Fremont Road in
174 the recent past due to speed concerns.

176 Mr. Sable thought suggested a long-term goal of “shaving down” some of the hill. However, this
might adversely affect the residence across the street as its driveway is currently level with the
178 hill.

180 Mr. Sable also noted that his driveway did not end up where it was supposed to; Building
Inspector Bunker has information on why that is, and invited Mr. Sable to discuss this after the
182 meeting.

184 Chairman Berube noted that he and Road Agent Oleson will visit the site sometime this week,
and in the meantime, urged Mr. Sable to submit a Request for Action through the Highway
186 Department page on ChesterNH.org.

188 “Blind Driveway” and chevron signs to indicate sharp curve were both suggested to help remedy
the issue.

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192 **3.7 Town Fair Parking**

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194 Fire Lieutenant Newnan explained that Town Fair on September 7th was very busy and there
were a number of safety concerns with parking. Some moved cones in order to park behind the
school, and many parked on 102 and in fire lanes. Selectman D'Angelo suggested moving
196 Town Fair to encompass a combination of Spring Hill Farm (fair, parking) and Wason Pond
(fireworks); there has been talk of acquiring a van to transport attendees. Lt. Newnan
198 suggested having hay wagon rides to and from SHF and Wason Pond.

200 Selectman D'Angelo suggested involving Recreation and Town Fair Committee in this
discussion. He also suggested following the lead of the Wason Pond Pounder, as its organizers
202 had developed a successful parking / shuttling system.

204 Chairman Berube will invite Recreation and the Town Fair Committee to attend the next HSC
205 meeting to get the ball rolling on finding a solution.

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IV. Adjournment

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209 The next meeting of the Highway Safety Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, December 18,
210 2019 at 9:00am in the Municipal Complex Meeting Room.

212 **Fire Lieutenant Newnan moved to adjourn the meeting; Building Inspector Bunker
213 seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; motion carried.**

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The meeting was adjourned at 10:29am.

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Respectfully Submitted,

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Caroline R. Wilson, Recording Secretary



Accident Status Report

From: 06/01/2019 Thru: 08/31/2019

09/10/2019

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

Accident ID	Officer	State Rpt/Acc. Date & Time	Location / Street Names
19-31-AC	127	Yes 06/03/2019 0845	CHESTER ST @ RAYMOND RD Veh# 1 Veh# 2
19-32-AC	538	Yes 06/08/2019 1957	RAYMOND RD @ HANSON RD Veh# 1 Injured Veh# 2 Veh# 2
19-33-AC	820	No 06/12/2019 1220	PREMONT RD Veh# 1
19-34-AC	578	Yes 06/23/2019 1616	EXIT OF CHESTER GEN STORE PARKING LOT / HAVER Veh# 1 Veh# 2 Injured Veh# 2 Injured
19-35-AC	578	No 06/23/2019 1445	POWER LINES NORTH OF 414 / CHESTER ST Veh# 1
19-44-AC	620	Yes 07/16/2019 1532	CANDIA RD Veh# 1 Injured
19-36-AC	638	Yes 07/19/2019 2235	HAVERHILL RD Veh# 1
19-37-AC	578	Yes 07/20/2019 1736	AT THE INTERSECTION OF RT 121 & 102 / CHESTER DERRY RD Veh# 1 Veh# 2
19-38-AC	869	Yes 07/22/2019 0604	IN FRONT OF DOT SHED / RAYMOND RD Veh# 1
19-39-AC	620	Yes 07/25/2019 1215	CHESTER ST @ CANDIA RD Veh# 1 Veh# 2 Veh# 1 Veh# 1 Veh# 1
19-40-AC	831	No 08/01/2019 1145	DERRY RD Veh# 1

Accident Status Report

Page: 2

From: 06/01/2019 Thru: 08/31/2019

09/10/2019

19-41-AC	<u>Officer</u> 620	<u>State Rpt/Acc. Date & Time</u> Yes 08/04/2019 2022	<u>Location / Street Names</u> CHESTER ST @ CANDIA RD
	Operator>	[REDACTED]	Veh# 1
	Witness>	[REDACTED]	Veh#
	Witness>	[REDACTED]	Veh#
19-42-AC	<u>Officer</u> 831	<u>State Rpt/Acc. Date & Time</u> Yes 08/08/2019 1317	<u>Location / Street Names</u> RAND DR
	Operator>	[REDACTED]	Veh# 1
	Operator>	[REDACTED]	Veh# 2
19-43-AC	<u>Officer</u> 723	<u>State Rpt/Acc. Date & Time</u> Yes 08/16/2019 2120	<u>Location / Street Names</u> HAVERHILL RD @ JENKINS FARM RD
	Operator>	[REDACTED]	Veh# 1

State Reports Required: 11
State Reports Not Required: 3