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

II. Old Business

2.1 Approval of Minutes: June 19, 2019

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

2.2 Parking Issue & Property Concerns at Chester General Store

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

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

2.3 Oversize/overweight (OSOW) Permitting Software

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

This item will be removed from the agenda.

2.4 Cone Purchase

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

This item will be removed from the agenda.

III. New Business

3.1 Stop Sign at Corner of Town Hall

An individual recently suggested placing a stop sign at the corner of town hall where the main parking lot and the horseshoe converge. Those present did not feel a stop sign was warranted; 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.

3.2 Road Safety Audits Presentation – Carl Eppich of SNHPC

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.

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

Other areas suggested for a safety audit were:

- 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.

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.

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

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

3.4 Reports from Departments

- **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
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.

- **Fire:** Nothing to report.
- **Police:** Nothing to report.

### 3.5 Establish Committee Members / Vote

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.

### 3.6 Road Concerns – John Sable of 724 Fremont Road

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 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 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 the recent past due to speed concerns.

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 hill.

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 meeting.

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 Department page on ChesterNH.org.

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

### 3.7 Town Fair Parking

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 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 suggested having hay wagon rides to and from SHF and Wason Pond.

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 had developed a successful parking / shuttling system.
Chairman Berube will invite Recreation and the Town Fair Committee to attend the next HSC meeting to get the ball rolling on finding a solution.

IV. Adjournment

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:29am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Caroline R. Wilson, Recording Secretary
## Accident Status Report

**From:** 06/01/2019  
**Thru:** 08/31/2019  
**09/10/2019**

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