

**Public Safety Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 20, 2022
6:00 PM
Council Chambers**

Members Present

Councilor Peter Lachapelle, Chair
Councilor Dana Berlin
Councilor Amy Malone
Councilor Chris Rice

Members Absent

Councilor Skip Gilman (excused)

Others Present

Michael Bezanson, PE, City Engineer
Deputy Chief Jason Thomas, PD
Dan Camara, GIS Asset Mgmt. Technician
Donald Lachance, 67 Oak Street
Roy Stevens -Tara Estates
Bryan Cuddihee, 99 Estes Road

Minutes

Councilor Lachapelle brought the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

1. Approve Minutes from March 16, 2022 Public Safety Meeting.

Councilor Rice MOVED to approve the minutes from March 16, 2022. Councilor Berlin seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED by a unanimous voice vote.

2. Public Input

Flashing Red Light Request on Oak Street and Hansonville Road

Mr. Donald Lachance of 67 Oak Street was present to talk about his concern with vehicles running through the stop sign on Hansonville Road at Oak Street. This was Item #13 on the agenda and was moved up. His driveway is directly across the street from Hansonville Road. He has lived at that location for 40 years and in that time he has had 6 vehicles totaled because drivers thought that his driveway was a continuation of the road. Six to eight months ago his step daughter's car was hit in the driveway and was pushed into his truck, totaling both vehicles. He is requesting a flashing light. Councilor Rice asked Mr. Lachance if his driveway was directly across from Hansonville Road and Mr. Lachance said yes. Councilor Lachapelle said there is a "stop" sign and line there. Councilor Berlin asked if there was any advance warning signage; Councilor Lachapelle said there was not. Mr. Lachance is requesting a flashing stop sign. Councilor Rice asked whether the flashing light on the stop sign on Tebbetts Road at Old Dover Road is hard wired or solar. Mr. Bezanson said they are solar. ***Councilor Rice MOVED to install a flashing LED warning device on the stop sign at the intersection of Hansonville and Oak Street at the discretion of DPW. Councilor Malone seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED by a unanimous voice vote. Councilor Rice MOVED to install an "Intersection Ahead" sign on***

Hansonville Road at the discretion of DPW warning drivers of an upcoming intersection. Councilor Malone seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED by a 3 to 1 voice vote.

Estes Road Guardrail Request (kept in committee)

Bryan Cuddihee of 99 Estes Road was present to discuss his concern with accidents near his property. This was Item #8 on the agenda and was moved up. He stated he has lived there since 2008 and there has been 12 to 15 notable incidents. He said the last incident it would have been beneficial to have a guardrail. He said the plans to crown and sign the road would be helpful. The road is scheduled to be paved this summer this leads to more problems because there is already a speeding problem. Councilor Berlin said he didn't want to sound insensitive, but if the City installs a guardrail in front of your house 18,000 other people will want one as well in front of their property. He said he wouldn't be in favor of putting guardrail in front of his property. Mr. Cuddihee said he doesn't necessarily want it in front of his property. Councilor Rice asked the speed limit of the road. Councilor Berlin mentioned the delineators on poles. Mr. Bezanson said that the delineators are not too expensive to install. Deputy Chief Thomas stated that the section in question was 35 mph. He also said that in the last 3 years there have been 5 accidents and 3 specifically to the area in discussion between Washington Street and Howard Brook. Councilor Rice said he is not opposed to a guardrail and is not making a motion, but would like the cost to install for cases going forward. He would like to explore the delineators. Councilor Malone wanted to know the downfalls of installing a guardrail besides if you do one for one will have to do for everyone. Mr. Bezanson said that the on-going maintenance costs can be significant and that the Department is struggling to keep up with maintenance and repair right now. He stated in the upcoming budget they have proposed additional funds for maintenance and repair of guardrail. ***Councilor Berlin MOVED to install delineators on a post at the discretion of DPW. Councilor Rice seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED by a unanimous voice vote.***

Safety Concerns Near Porter's Pub

Roy Stevens who has been a resident of Rochester at Tara Estates since 2010 was present to voice his concerns regarding safety issues. He said last Wednesday his wife and he were at Porter's Pub and as they were leaving around 3:30 PM his wife fell in a hole where a tree used to be. He said if it wasn't for her holding a plastic box she would have been banged up more than she was. She damaged her glasses. He said there were 2 spots where there were holes. He suggested that the City have someone go and look for safety issues that could be fixed before an accident happens. Councilor Lachapelle said that when people call or if the City sees any issue they respond immediately. Mr. Stevens mentioned that the next morning after his wife fell the City filled in the sidewalk with concrete. Councilor Rice said that he had noticed the concrete filled in on the Hanson Street sidewalk and was glad to know the issue was fixed. Councilor Lachapelle said he will talk to the City Manager about this incident and get back to Mr. Stevens. Mr.

Stevens also discussed an issue in the past with the level of grass below the edge of sidewalk causing a tripping hazard at the South Main Street/Columbus Street intersection, as well as suggesting that the Fire Department lock the brass covers on the hose connections outside of buildings to prevent theft.

3. Flat Rock Bridge Road/Salmon Falls Road Intersection Safety Concerns (kept in committee)

Councilor Lachapelle summarized the issue. Mr. Bezanson said he has the survey scope of work for the intersection finalized, but will need to wait until funds are available in the next fiscal year to act on it.

4. Salmon Falls Road Traffic Issues (kept in committee)

Councilor Lachapelle summarize this issue. He said it's been in committee for a while how should they proceed. Councilor Berlin wanted to know if there was any discussion on the DPW side with the Fire Department and if there and if they had a cost of speed table. Mr. Bezanson said he wasn't aware of a discussion regarding this with the Fire Department and that he doesn't have cost right now. He did say that speed tables can present issues for winter maintenance, however there is a raised crosswalk on Marketplace Boulevard and there is one designed for the Strafford Square Roundabout. Councilor Lachapelle said if you do it once everyone is going to want one. Councilor Berlin said that is why they should come up with a policy with criteria. Councilor Malone said the residents have come multiple times and emailed them some sign suggestions. She said installing signs may be the minimum they can do. Councilor Rice said too many signs leads to sign pollution and regulating truck traffic on that section of Salmon Falls Road may be difficult since this area is within the 2 mile radius of the State highway. He said this is a complex issue and that the speed trailer should be placed in this area. Deputy Chief Thomas said right now the speed trailer is on Chestnut Hill Road and will be moved over to Salmon Falls Road tonight. Councilor Berlin said he looked up the traffic counts for Bellamy Road in Dover where there is a speed table installed and in 2020 there were 5,867 vehicles; and, in 2020 on this portion of Salmon Falls Road there were 5,218 vehicles. **(kept in committee)**

5. Sidewalk Request Hansonville Road (email was sent to Councilor Lachapelle)

Councilor Lachapelle summarized the issue. He stated that there is a safety issue, but the installation of a sidewalk should be referred to the Public Works Committee. Councilor Rice recommended that this not be referred to the Public Works Committee. Councilor Berlin asked if a sidewalk could physically be installed on this portion of roadway. Mr. Bezanson stated that it appeared that there may be sufficient right-of-way width to install a sidewalk; however, the sidewalk would require the installation of curb, installation of closed drainage, removal of ledge, etc. and the preliminary conceptual cost estimate is around \$300,000. No action was taken on this request.

6. Safety Issue Crosswalk Columbus Avenue near KFC- Route 125 (request was sent by Councilor Berlin)

Councilor Lachapelle summarized the issue. Councilor Berlin said at the last meeting the Committee discussed a potentially less expensive street lighting option rather than a rectangular rapid flashing beacon (RRFB). Mr. Bezanson said, yes, that they did talk about a standalone solar light and that he is still working on getting cost estimates. **(kept in committee)**

7. Church Street Reduce Speed Limit (kept in committee)

Councilor Lachapelle summarized the issue. He said there are 25 mph speed limit signs on Pickering Road coming from Route 125 at the corner of Colby Street and at the Urban Compact line near Quaker Lane. Councilor Lachapelle suggested that Church Street should be changed to a 25 mph zone for the entire length. ***Councilor Lachapelle MOVED to replace the existing 30 mph speed limit sign on the southern end of Church Street as you enter from Route 125 with a 25 mph speed limit sign and move the existing 25 mph sign to the northern end of Church Street as you enter from Pickering Road. Councilor Rice seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED by a unanimous voice vote.*** Councilor Rice asked if the traffic signals on Route 125 at Oak Street and Chesley Hill Road are under NHDOT control. Mr. Bezanson said yes.

8. Safety Concerns at the End of Sheridan & Granite Street (concern came from constituent to Councilor Gray)

Councilor Lachapelle summarized the issue. Mr. Bezanson said there was a City infrastructure improvement project in the area in the 2015-2016 timeframe. The current Woodman Area Improvements project that is about to begin construction does not include any work in this immediate area. The large trees on the corner of Granite Street and Sheridan Avenue were removed around the time of the previous City project and a fence has since been installed by the property owner on the corner; the direction of traffic hasn't changed – it is still one way from Granite to Sheridan. Mr. Bezanson said that it is difficult to see around the corner because of the location of the fence. ***Councilor Rice MOVED to install a “stop” sign at the end of Granite Street at the Sheridan Avenue end, with a painted stop bar at the discretion of DPW. Councilor Malone seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED by a unanimous voice vote.***

9. Central Avenue at Portland Street Requesting a “Public Parking” Sign

Councilor Lachapelle summarized the issue. No action taken

10. Crosswalk Request by So'Field Apartments on Rochester Hill Road

Councilor Lachapelle summarized the issue. Councilor Lachapelle said Route 108 is State jurisdiction. Mr. Bezanson said there is a Route 108 Complete Street project that NHDOT has in design; this intersection is included and is at the northern end of the project scope. He has been involved in discussions with the State regarding the project; and, moving the COAST bus stops closer to this intersection has been raised. No action taken. Mr. Bezanson will continue to

advocate for bus stops, sidewalks, and a crosswalk at the intersection of Rochester Hill Road (Route 108) and Innovation Drive.

11. E911 Update

No update

12. Emergency Management Update

No update

13. Other

Columbus Avenue-Pedestrian Warning Sign

Councilor Berlin said the “Yield to Pedestrians” sign on the left side of Columbus Avenue travelling northbound just north of the Lowell Street intersection is not easy to see. Mr. Bezanson mentioned that years ago on other approaches to the downtown, these signs were installed on both sides of the roadway, which could have been the case here. ***Councilor Berlin MOVED to move the current “Yield to Pedestrians” sign from the left side of the road to right side of the road at the discretion of DPW. Councilor Malone seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED by a unanimous voice vote.***

Estes Road Reduce Speed Limit

Following up on previous discussions regarding safety concerns on the portion of Estes Road between Washington Street (Route 202) and Walnut Street (Route 202A), Councilor Rice requested the speed limit be changed in this area to 30 mph. ***Councilor Rice MOVED to change the posted speed limit on Estes Road between Route 202A and Route 202 from 35 mph to 30 mph. Councilor Berlin seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED by a unanimous voice vote.***

Norway Plains Road-Speed Limit Sign

Councilor Lachapelle read a request from a resident asking for speed limit signs to be posted on Norway Plains Road, citing increased traffic. Councilor Lachapelle asked whether there was any posted speed limit now on Norway Plains Road. Dan Camara said that according to GIS records there are not any speed limit signs on this road. Deputy Chief Thomas noted that the prima facie speed limit for this area would be 30 mph. ***Councilor Rice MOVED to install a 30 mph speed limit sign on Norway Plains Road. Councilor Berlin seconded the motion.*** Mr. Bezanson mentioned the status of the annual sign budget, noting that as we approach the end of the fiscal year he was unsure that there would be available funds remaining. ***Councilor Rice WITHDREW his motion and Councilor Berlin WITHDREW his second.*** Councilor Rice suggested the Committee take up the issue in the new fiscal year and that he may propose an increased sign budget during City Council budget deliberations.

DOT-Road Safety Audit - Washington Street and Estes Road

Mr. Bezanson updated the Committee regarding the Road Safety Audit application

for the Washington Street and Estes Road intersection. NHDOT has contacted DPW and expressed that they understand the safety issues and the available options; and, as such will skip the formal Road Safety Audit process and move right into the project development phase.

Barrington Bridge Replacement Project Detour

Mr. Bezanson stated that DPW was notified by the Town of Barrington that they would be constructing a project for the replacement of the Greenhill Road Bridge and have proposed detouring traffic through Gonic on Hansonville and Flagg Roads. He said that he talked to PD regarding it and they foresee no problems. Councilor Lachapelle asked if it would be happening this summer. Mr. Bezanson said yes, he thought that construction would begin this summer.

Pickering Road – Speed Trailer Request

Councilor Lachapelle asked Deputy Chief Thomas if there was any room to put the speed trailer on Pickering Road; he said he got a complaint about speeding by St. Leo's Church. Deputy Chief Thomas said they could look at the location. Councilor Rice asked about the new signs because they report data. Deputy Chief Thomas said that the new signs just came in and are currently still in the boxes.

Councilor Lachapelle ADJOURNED the meeting at 7:40 PM.

The minutes were respectfully submitted by Laura J. McDormand, Admin. Assistant II.