

Public Safety Committee  
Central Fire Station  
November 15, 2017  
7:00 PM

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Councilor Peter Lachapelle, Vice Chair  
Councilor Ray Barnett  
Councilor Robert Gates  
Councilor James Gray

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Councilor Donald Hamann, Chair

**OTHER PRESENT**

Michael Bezanson, PE, City Engineer  
Deputy Chief Gary Boudreau, P. D.  
Mark Klose, Fire Chief  
Deputy Chief Tim Wilder, Fire Marshal  
Diane & Gerald Dooda, 7 Quail Drive  
Heather Derrick, 82 Ebony Drive

Minutes

Councilor Lachapelle brought the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

1. Approve Minutes from October 18, 2017

***Councilor Gates made a motion to approve the October 18, 2017 minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilor Barnett. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.***

2. Quail Drive-Speed Limit Sign and Restricted Truck Access Signage

There were members of the public present for items that were on the agenda, so the committee moved the agenda items around. Diane & Gerald Dooda of 7 Quail Drive were there to discuss safety issues on Quail Drive. Deputy Chief Boudreau stated that if a road is not posted, the speed limit depends upon the type of road; this road is 35 mph. Mr. Bezanson said that Quail Drive is posted 35 mph on each end. The Doodas were not sure who requested speed limit signs, but they were present to request "No thru trucks" signs. Mrs. Dooda stated that there is a lot of truck traffic in the area including trash trucks, 18 wheelers and school buses that use this road. Mr. Dooda stated that the road is only a 1/2 mile long and there are cracks all over the road from the large vehicles that travel on it regularly. Deputy Chief Boudreau said that they cannot restrict

busses from traveling on Quail Drive because they are going to a destination. Mrs. Dooda said that the busses that travel down the street are not picking up children they are going to the Laidlaw bus company. They requested a "Local traffic only" sign. Councilor Lachapelle said that they can't stop all traffic from traveling the road. Mr. Dooda stated that they don't want the road ruined by commercial traffic. **Councilor Gates made a recommendation to full Council to place "no thru truck" signs on both ends of Quail Drive with the gross vehicle weights recommended by DPW. The motion was seconded by Councilor Barnett. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.** Councilor Gray told Mr. and Mrs. Dooda that if the signs were approved they may not be put up until spring because of the weather.

3. Ebony Drive-Speed Issues (kept in committee)

Heather Derrick of 82 Ebony Drive was present to discuss the speeding issues on Ebony Drive. Deputy Chief Boudreau stated that they did extra patrols in the area and they are planning on placing the speed trailer on Ebony Drive. Mrs. Derrick said that would be great and asked how long it is usually placed in the area. Deputy Chief Boudreau said they usually place the speed trailer out for a week at a time and that they usually do not post actual speeds because some drivers will speed to see how fast they can go. Mrs. Derrick said there is a resident and a lawn care company that tend to go fast. She said there are currently 10 children on Ebony Drive. Councilor Gray said after the speed trailer is placed if there is still speeding in the area that she could try to get the license plate numbers and report them to the police, but cautioned to do so safely. Councilor Lachapelle said the speed trailer would be scheduled to be placed on Ebony Drive soon to collect the data.

4. Public Input

There were no other members of the public present.

5. Trinity Circle-Parking Concern

Councilor Lachapelle summarized the issue. Arwen Meyer of 44A Trinity Circle sent an e-mail to Councilor Hamann regarding the parking issue on Trinity Circle. She has lived there for 9 years and has watched the parking situation continuously get worse and now it has become a safety issue. There are now several more homes so the traffic has seemed to double. A lot of the residents of Trinity Circle tend to park on the side of the road instead of the driveways so the

road becomes very narrow and becomes passable to only 1 car at a time. She is concerned that emergency vehicles cannot safely pass through and the fire hydrants are being blocked. She also said that it is hard for her to back out of her driveway with cars parked directly behind her and at both edges. Councilor Gray suggested that the Police and Fire Departments visit the area to see how narrow the road gets and to see if the emergency vehicles can pass through safely. Fire Chief Klose said he will get input from all 4 shifts. This was kept in committee to get recommendations from the Police and Fire Departments.

6. Colby Street- Crosswalk Visibility (kept in committee)

Councilor Lachapelle summarized the issue. Councilor Lachapelle stated that he sees a lot of 18 wheelers on Colby Street. Deputy Chief Boudreau said that is the best route for the 18 wheelers because it is more difficult to access Route 125 from Main St. than it is from Colby St. He said there have only been 2 accidents in 5 years in the area and that there were no injuries involved. Councilor Gray wanted to know where the lights were. Mr. Bezanson said it was pretty dark in the area of the crosswalk; street lights are generally located on every other pole in downtown Gonic. Mr. Bezanson will research the lighting in this area. Councilor Lachapelle said if it meets the street light policy he would not want to change it. This was kept in committee and Mr. Bezanson will research the lighting in this area of Gonic.

7. Route 11 Light-Timing Study (kept in committee)

Councilor Lachapelle summarized the issue. Peter Nourse wrote a letter to the State of NH DOT to request modifying the signal timing for the signals on Route 11, as well as reviewing pedestrian safety and traffic signal warrants at Nashoba Drive. A response letter was received by Mr. Nourse that stated "the installation of traffic signals, if warranted, at a private drive or roadway would be the responsibility of the property owner. This responsibility would include completion of the traffic signal warrant analysis...". The response letter also addressed pedestrian safety, but did not address the request regarding the timing of existing traffic signals on Route 11. Councilor Gray suggested that DPW write a letter to him explaining that the review of the timing of existing signals was not addressed in the NHDOT response.

8. Downtown Crosswalk Signage (kept in committee)

Councilor Lachapelle summarized the issue. He stated that the lighting downtown does need to be fixed, from the China Palace on South Main St., to Wakefield St. past Profile Bank, Union Street to Bridge Street, and North Main St. back to Parson Main. Mr. Bezanson stated that Councilor Varney had also recently asked DPW about the status of the downtown lighting conversion to LED. Mr. Bezanson said three or four LED light set-ups were installed on North Main St. near Lilac City Grille. Some of these installations are brighter than others and some cast a lot of light upward, while other are shielded to cast light downward. Councilor Gates asked if the globes were glass or plastic. Mr. Bezanson said they were plastic. All of the downtown lights are scheduled to be replaced with LED and the globes to be replaced with new clear plastic globes; the issue will be discussed further at the Public Works & Buildings Committee meeting tomorrow night. Mr. Bezanson said that the consultant that reviewed the downtown crosswalks had several recommendations and that, as the committee began to discuss at last month's meeting, there were several signs recommended. Currently there are some pedestrian signs already installed in the downtown area. Councilor Barnett wanted to know if parked vehicles are blocking the view of pedestrians in crosswalks. Mr. Bezanson said he would need to check; the consultant has recommended no parking within 25' of the approach to a crosswalk. He also said that bright fluorescent signs were recommended. Councilor Gates asked if it was an issue that people couldn't see the crosswalk. He also asked if there was a schedule for the crosswalks to be painted. Mr. Bezanson said they were going to overlay the pavement in the spring, so they only repainted the long lines of the current downtown crosswalk markings. Councilor Gates asked if there was data regarding pedestrians being hit in crosswalks. Deputy Chief Boudreau said he did not have any figures on the top of his head. He also said that pedestrians also have to take some responsibility to look at their surroundings. Mr. Bezanson said he will see about repainting some of the crosswalks that need it. Kept in committee.

9. Strawberry/Cider Hill-Dark Corner (kept in committee)

Councilor Lachapelle summarized the issue. Deputy Chief Boudreau said the area is pretty dark. He passed a couple of photos around. Councilor Lachapelle said that the area does meet the street-light policy of every 3 poles and at intersections. Chevron signs could be placed at the corner, but the residents at the two houses on the corner should be notified first. The chevron signs would be installed right in front of their front yard. Kept in committee until the two residents are notified.

10. Other

Eversource Assessing Damage

Fire Chief Klose said that Eversource emailed him at 5:45 PM to let him know that they were going to have an aerial assessment done of the storm damage.

Irish Street - Extend Crosswalk to Charles Street

Mr. Bezanson said that Irish Street is one-way in then turns to a two-way. Before paving next spring DPW proposed extending the existing sidewalk on Irish St. to Charles Street, approximately 175 feet. Councilor Gray wanted to know if there was enough money in the sidewalk fund. ***Councilor Gray made a motion to extend the sidewalk from Irish Street to Charles Street using existing sidewalk funds. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gates. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.***

Irish Street - Relocate Pole and Light

Mr. Bezanson requested that the pole and street-light be moved from the middle of the road at the intersection of Irish St. and Charles St. ***Councilor Barnett made a motion to move the pole and street light in the middle of Irish Street to a new location outside of the paved roadway at the discretion of DPW. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gray. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.***

Sullivan Farm Drive - Street Light

Mr. Bezanson said the intersection of Sullivan Farm Drive and Salmon Falls Road is dark. There is a street light on the pole that is 170' into Sullivan Farm Drive. Mr. Bezanson proposed that the street light be moved to the pole at the intersection. Fire Marshal Wilder said that when answering calls it is easier to see intersections and street name signs when the intersection is lit. ***Councilor Gray made a motion to move the street light closer to the intersection but contact the two residents that will be affected. The motion was seconded by Councilor Barnett. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.***

Crosswalk at the Intersection of Lilac Mall

Mr. Bezanson updated the committee on the crosswalk on Miltion Road at the intersection of the Lilac Mall. Instead of blacking out the crosswalk markings at the intersection, a pedestrian phase will be added to the traffic signal in a couple of weeks.

Dry Hill Road by Oak Street

Councilor Lachapelle asked if they could have some directed patrols on Dry Hill Road by Oak Street.

Dry Hill Road - Street Sign

Councilor Lachapelle said there is a resident that lives at 26 Dry Hill Road and he wanted a street sign, as emergency personnel respond to the wrong place.. Kept in committee for further information.

***Councilor Gates made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 PM. Councilor Barnett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.***

Minutes respectfully submitted by Laura Miller, Secretary II.