

**Public Safety Committee
Meeting Minutes
July 21, 2021
6:00 PM
Council Chambers**

Members Present

Councilor Don Hamann, Chair
Councilor Peter Lachapelle, Vice-chair
Councilor Chris Rice

Members Absent

Councilor Jeremy Hutchinson (Unexcused)
Councilor Palana Belken (Excused)

Others Present

Michael Bezanson, PE, City Engineer
Dan Camara, GIS Asset Mgmt. Technician
Deputy Chief Gary Boudreau, PD
Lisa Littlefield, 107 & 115 Salmon Falls Road
Cliff Newton, Rochester Resident

Minutes

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

1. **Approve Minutes from June 16, 2021, Public Safety Meeting**
Councilor Lachapelle motion to approve the minutes from June 16, 2021. The motion was seconded by Councilor Rice. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.

2. **Public Input**

The members of the public that were present were there for items already on the agenda.

3. **Flat Rock Bridge Road/Salmon Falls Road Intersection Safety Concerns**

Councilor Hamann moved this item up on the agenda, as there were people present to discuss this item. Lisa Littlefield who owns 107 and 115 Salmon Falls Road was present to discuss safety issues near her properties. She stated that this area is very busy and that they have owned property in this area since the late 1960's. She stated she went to the City about a year ago requesting help with her abutting neighbor on the corner of Flat Rock Bridge Road, regarding safety concerns. Over the years she and her tenants have spoken with the neighbor regarding moving vehicles for line-of-sight, working on snowplowing together, and other issues. Councilor Rice asked if the abutting property was an auto dealership and Ms. Littlefield said yes, Precision Auto, and the owner is Jack McCarthy. As motorists approach Salmon Falls Road on Flat Rock Bridge Road, the business is on the right corner of the intersection; there is a lot going on at that intersection, she said. It is a very busy area as there is a campground further down Flat Rock Bridge Road over the Salmon Falls River into Maine, two driveways at a duplex, their home driveway, the business, Burkes Tree Service; and, Salmon Falls Road

is 35 mph, but people do not abide by that. Starting a year ago, with the guidance of the City, she started keeping track and working with compliance officer Robert Lynch. There are several issues related to safety in this area. At the intersection there is a stop sign in a cement structure; motorists approaching the intersection need to inch forward past the structure to obtain necessary line-of-sight along Salmon Falls Road before proceeding into the intersection. Mr. McCarthy parks vehicles from his lot up along the Salmon Falls Road frontage. The driveway next to the auto dealership is her property; they also have a lot of trouble getting in and out of the driveway due to line-of-sight issues. Ms. Littlefield said that in the past they have had to replace mailboxes, planters and fences due to the neighbor. One of the major issues is he creates a wall of the automobiles and when the compliance officer has him move them it lasts a little while and then he inches them back to the edge of the road. He also creates snow walls in the winter time. Councilor Rice asked what Mr. McCarthy does with the snow walls and Ms. Littlefield said he plows directly into the tree line. He allows vendors and customers to park in front of the wall of vehicles causing safety hazards. She has told Mr. McCarthy that she was going to involve the Police Department if he was not going to take care of the issues, but he continues to do it. She also stated that he is out of compliance with the number of vehicles he is only supposed to have 10 and she has counted 40 at one time. This used to be part of 43 Flat Rock Bridge Road when Mr. Ramsey passed his wife sold the property, so 43 is now separate from 45 Flat Rock Bridge Road. She stated he now has a large box container and a RV along the tree line and a box truck behind his building to establish a boundary even though he now knows it's her property. She had a survey done in 2017 and she walked the boundaries with him so he knows where they are. Councilor Lachapelle asked Deputy Chief Boudreau if this was enforceable for going over the property line. Councilor Rice ask whether there was a common distance for property lines from center of roadway. Mr. Bezanson said the Right-of Way varies street to street, he also stated that it would be helpful to get a copy of the 2017 survey. Deputy Chief Boudreau said a quick search revealed only 2 accidents in the area from 2015 to present. Councilor Hamann is going to talk with Terrance the City Attorney about the sale of vehicles at this property. This was kept in committee so research can be done. Ms. Littlefield will get the 2017 property line survey to Mr. Bezanson.

4. Crosswalk Request Linscott Court Apartments across Columbus Avenue (kept in committee)

Mr. Bezanson said that DPW has begun to work with an engineering consultant regarding a Summer Street/Columbus Avenue intersection project. The scope of that project is going to include an evaluation of pedestrian improvements, including making connections between existing sidewalks and the potential for a crosswalk at Linscott Court/Columbus Avenue. The potential sidewalk connections will involve working with the railroad for the portion along Columbus between Linscott and Summer, as well as a potential connection along Columbus past City Hall to Museum. The consultants have given a rough time frame for evaluation and design of about a year; Mr. Bezanson said he would probably have updates before that and will keep the committee informed. Councilor Hamann asked that this

agenda item be kept in committee.

5. **Squamanagonic Fence**

Councilor Hamann summarized the issue. Councilor Lachapelle stated that Squamanagonic is City-owned and was deeded to be used as a recreational area. It is very unique because it is the only City park that has vehicle access to such remote areas not visible from the roadway. There is an access gate that was locked until recently when Golf Disk started using the park. He stated that they go above and beyond with the cleanup and that they have been great to work with. He said that there is a safety issue: people are in the park all hours of the night engaging in various activities, including drug and homeless activity. He said that an automatic gate was proposed, but that would be expensive; the concern with a manually locked gate is that staff would need to be assigned to open and close the gate each day that the park is in use. Councilor Rice asked where the vehicles are entering. Deputy Chief Boudreau said there is an entrance on Hansonville Road, but others have entered the park through private property. Councilor Hamann asked if the fencing goes all the way across. Councilor Lachapelle said there is a tree line there; he also said there is no way to stop people from walking in. Cliff Newton, a long time Gonic resident, was present to talk about the safety concerns in the area. He stated he was born and raised in Gonic and said that this is a very unique park; it's the only City park that you can drive down into. He stated this has not been locked for 7 years and the neighbors were promised it would be. He said the firing range has been there for years and there are homeless people living around the firing range in the woods. Mr. Newton said maybe it is time to move the firing range to another location like Waste Management; there is plenty of space there now. He said Milton has a park that the gate is open every morning and locked every night and a sign on it if you're locked in to call the Police. There were discussions about having a City department open and close the gate every day. Mr. Newton stated he is meeting with the City Manager on Friday at 3:00 PM to discuss options with the gate. Councilor Hamann asked if he could join the meeting as well. ***Councilor Rice made a motion to have the City Manager recommend to have one of the 24-hour City departments open and close the gate every day. The motion was seconded by Councilor Lachapelle. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.***

6. **Stop sign request-Janet Street**

Councilor Hamann summarized the issue. Councilor Rice said this area was discussed in committee a couple of months ago for a "Children at Play" sign, which are not a recognized sign by the MUCTD. Councilor Hamann said he looked at the area and the only location that made sense to him for a "Stop" sign was at the intersection of Melanie Street and Janet Street. Mr. Bezanson concurred that a "Stop" sign could be placed in that location. ***Councilor Lachapelle made a motion to have a "Stop" sign installed at the corner of Melanie and Janet Streets at the discretion of DPW. The motion was seconded by Councilor Rice. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.***

7. **E911 Update**

Councilor Hamann summarized the issue. Deputy Chief Boudreau said there was not much of an update. At the August City Council meeting the E911 Committee will have representatives of the State E911 Committee talk about the process and standards. Councilor Rice asked if that was about the renumbering; and, Deputy Chief Boudreau said yes.

8. **Emergency Management**

Councilor Hamann summarized the issue. Deputy Chief Boudreau said he had talked to the Fire Department that afternoon and they had no update for this item.

9. **COVID-19 Statistics Update**

Councilor Hamann said that this could be taken off the agenda for now. Councilor Rice recommended if something comes up that this could be put back on the agenda.

10. **Other**

Yeagley Way-Stop sign

Councilor Rice said he emailed DPW because he received an email about a “Stop” sign by the High School; where one-way traffic crosses in front of the High School, he thinks there use to be a “Stop” sign on Yeagley Way. Mr. Bezanson said DPW recently took action on this and is now a 3-way stop. This was kept in committee; Mr. Bezanson will reach out to the School Department to discuss the stop control at this intersection and will get back to the Committee.

Ten Rod Road by Intersection to the off Ramp

Councilor Rice said he almost got hit a few times with people doing U-turns by Domino’s Pizza. This was kept in committee, so that Mr. Bezanson could reach out to NHDOT to see if they have any comment given their jurisdiction with the Spaulding Turnpike off-ramp in this area and will get back to the Committee.

Councilor Lachapelle made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 PM. The motion was seconded by Councilor Rice. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.

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

July 10, 2020

Dear Jack of Precision Dent and Collision --
or current Owner of Business

I am writing today for two reasons. First, I want to thank you for moving your inventory of vehicles further away from the road. This makes it much safer for pulling out of our driveways at 107 and 115 Salmon Falls Rd. It makes it safer for all traffic in general passing by and turning. Ours has always been a hazardous, busy intersection with people constantly traveling over the 35mph speed limit. I've lived at 107 on and off my entire 50+ years.

Second, you should remember that after having my land surveyed in June 2017, I walked with you ^{Kevin} showing the boundary stakes that were placed where we abut land. As you saw, your inventory of vehicles and various other items were on my land as they still are. At the time, I said it was okay for you to use that space temporarily until I need to prepare to sell. That time has come. I have my

First interested Buyer. With that in mind,
I'm asking that you please remove all
property you have currently within
~~only~~ property lines wherever we abut.
I'm asking that this task be completed
no later than Tuesday, August 11, 2020.

If you have any questions, don't
hesitate to call me anytime M-F
between 8am and 4pm.

Thank you,
Nisha Littlefield
603 834 0795



City of Rochester, New Hampshire

Building, Zoning, and Licensing Services

Complaint Form

Location of offense: 45 Salmon Falls Rd / Flat Rock Bridge Rd / Precision Dent & Collision Case #: _____
Property owner name: Precision Auto - Jack McCarthy Address: _____
City: Rochester State: NH Zip: 03868 Telephone: 603 332 6543
E-mail: _____
Property manager (if separate from owner): Jack McCarthy Telephone: _____

Please circle the topic your problem is relevant to:

☒ Property Maintenance ☐ Trash ☐ Motor Vehicles ☐ Signs ☐ Work w/o permit ☐ Zoning
☒ Site Plan Violation ☐ Health ☐ Other Safety

Please describe your complaint: *(Feel free to attach additional pages and/or pictures)*

Violations at this place of business in a R1 Zone are causing hazardous traffic conditions and decreasing the property values of the abutters and others. Additionally, this place of business has inventory, junk and possibly hazardous waste on both abutting properties. What is on mine at 109 Salmon Falls Rd is currently without permission. Letters to Jack attached 7/10/2020 and 8/13/2020

If this is a complaint about property maintenance, has your landlord been notified by certified mail?

* Please note that if you have not notified the landlord with proper documentation (see back) we cannot intervene*

Submitted by: Lisa G. Littlefield Address: 107/115 Salmon Falls Rd
City: Rochester State: NH Zip: 03868 Telephone: 603 834 0795
E-mail: LAG0131@yahoo.com

Signature: [Signature] Date: 8/13/2020

Robert Lynch

Re: [External] Progress / Safety Issue 45 Flat Rock Bridge Rd

September 3, 2020 at 6:32 PM

L

Jim Grant



Thank you for noticing Lisa, I will be addressing the parking on the corner issue tomorrow.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 3, 2020, at 6:12 PM, L <lag0131@yahoo.com> wrote:

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good evening Mr Lynch.

It's good to see progress continue at Precision Auto this week.

I need to address a safety issue that you may not have noticed when stopping by the business. The photo I am forwarding is to show a vehicle that has been parked beyond the stop sign for the past 3 days. This is a common occurrence. Mr. McCarthy continues to allow this as well as Customers park there. He doesn't seem to understand this defeats the purpose of his inventory being at a safe distance in line with the stop sign. Over the years my neighbor, my husband and myself have expressed the hazard that this causes as does the snow piles his plow person creates next to our driveway in the winter. Perhaps when his inventory is down to the allowable limit, these problems will be worked out. However, until then, these issues remain a hazard to us, his neighbors and the traffic in general. You seem to be having success with him so I'm hoping you will have better luck helping him understand the importance of this safety issue. It makes it difficult to see pulling out of our driveways and from the Flat Rock Bridge Road intersection onto a very busy Salmon Falls Rd where traffic rarely abides by the 35mph speed limit.

Thanks again for your efforts. Our neighborhood is enjoying the improvements that are taking place at Precision Auto.

Lisa G Littlefield

<image0.png>

Sent from my iPhone





Robert Lynch

RE: [External] Snow Wall Hazard

December 14, 2020 at 8:29 AM

L

, Jim Grant

Allen



Robert Lynch

RE: Fwd: [External] Hazardous parking and snow wall at intersection
December 29, 2020 at 11:56 AM

L

Jim Grant

Allen

I will reach out to Mr. McCarthy again.

Rob Lynch

Compliance Officer

City of Rochester - Building, Zoning, & Licensing Services

33 Wakefield Street

Rochester, NH 03867

Tel: (603) 332-3508

robert.lynch@rochesternh.net

<http://www.rochesternh.net/building-zoning-and-licensing-services>

From: L <lag0131@yahoo.com>

Sent: Tuesday, December 29, 2020 11:53 AM

To: Robert Lynch <robert.lynch@rochesternh.net>

Cc: Jim Grant <jim.grant@rochesternh.net>; Allen <awl3nh65@aol.com>

Subject: Re: [External] Fwd: Hazardous parking and snow wall at intersection

Good morning Mr Lynch. It's been 5 days since you spoke with Mr McCarthy again about the snow wall he created 10 or so days ago. He still has not addressed this issue (see pics from today in email). This past weekend, we watched our neighbor at 107 Salmon Falls stand out in the road to help guide a visitor backing out of their driveway. Not a safe solution. Again, this is a busy intersection with heavy and often speeding traffic on Salmon Falls Road. As you can imagine, the existing hazard will grow with the next snowfall along with whatever the city plows throw that way. Can you please help?

Lisa



Robert Lynch

Re: Fwd: [External] Hazardous parking and snow wall at intersection

January 1, 2021 at 9:35 AM

L

Jim Grant

, Allen

I spoke to Mr McCarthy on Wednesday 12/30/20 he stated he will remove the snow pile, as for the vehicles he is continuing to remove vehicles, as I am in contact with him quite frequently.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 1, 2021, at 8:38 AM, L <lag0131@yahoo.com> wrote:

Good morning and Happy new year Mr Lynch.

I don't know if you reached Mr McCarthy Wednesday about his snow wall again. Either way, it still has not been removed back to the stop sign, which he was contacted about two weeks ago. You may not be working today but I am writing because snow is predicted for tonight. This is a public safety issue for all and especially the people coming and going at 107 Salmon Falls Road. The police will be contacted next if this is not resolved.

Mr McCarthy is also not continuing to remove vehicles or junk and continues to keep same on Ms Kemp's land. These are Residential properties and way out of compliance with Zoning. You said you addressed this with Ms Kemp. She's not complying. It's all a terrible eyesore and devalues our properties. I intend to sell. This is holding me back. This process of bringing these people into compliance started August 13, 2020, almost 5 months ago. Precision Auto still has over 5 times the allowed amount of inventory, a junk yard and continues to create traffic hazards. I appreciate all you have done so far and we have been patient with the process, but Mr McCarthy is no longer progressing towards compliance, being a good business neighbor or addressing public safety issues he is creating. Ms Kemp is continuing to allow him to utilize her property as well. Please advise of which direction we go next.

Thank you, Lisa

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 29, 2020, at 11:56 AM, Robert Lynch <robert.lynch@rochesternh.net> wrote:

I will reach out to Mr. McCarthy again.

Rob Lynch
Compliance Officer
City of Rochester - Building, Zoning, & Licensing Services
33 Wakefield Street
Rochester, NH 03867
Tel: (603) 332-3508
robert.lynch@rochesternh.net
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From: L <lag0131@yahoo.com>
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To: Robert Lynch <robert.lynch@rochesternh.net>
Cc: Jim Grant <jim.grant@rochesternh.net>; Allen <awl3nh65@aol.com>
Subject: Re: [External] Fwd: Hazardous parking and snow wall at intersection

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L

Fwd: [External] Precision Auto parking

February 20, 2021 at 10:29 AM

Robert Lynch

Allen

, Jim.Grant@rochesternh.net



Good morning Mr Lynch. I just got back into town this morning so I didn't get to see the snow wall as my husband plowed it into line with the stop sign. So, if you see where it is for yourself, that is because my husband pushed it there with his plow. This is not our responsibility. However, we are concerned for public safety. Please inform Mr McCarthy.

Thank you, Lisa

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Allen Littlefield <awl3nh65@aol.com>
Date: February 20, 2021 at 10:13:09 AM EST
To: lag0131@yahoo.com
Subject: Fwd: [External] Precision Auto parking

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Allen Littlefield <awl3nh65@aol.com>
Date: February 20, 2021 at 8:49:30 AM EST
To: Robert Lynch <Robert.Lynch@rochesternh.net>
Subject: Re: [External] Precision Auto parking

He has also plowed a snow banking in front of the driveway to the street completely blocking the view of anyone attempting to exit the driveway. The man clearly has no concern for laws, codes or the safety of others.
Allen L.

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 20, 2021, at 5:18 AM, Robert Lynch <Robert.Lynch@rochesternh.net> wrote:

Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 19, 2021, at 11:39 PM, L <lag0131@yahoo.com> wrote:

Good evening Mr Lynch. Although Mr. McCarthy moved the vehicle a few days ago, per your request, he has put it back on our property. I understand this part of our issues is now a civil matter and I am taking steps in that direction. I just wanted to keep you informed.

Lisa Littlefield

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 17, 2021, at 6:12 AM, L <lag0131@yahoo.com> wrote:

Noted. Thanks again. Lisa

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 17, 2021, at 9:08 AM, Robert Lynch <https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__robert.lynch-40rochesternh.net&d=DwlFaQ&c=euGZstcaTDI/vimEN8b7jXrwqOf-v5A_CdpqnVfiiMM&r=MybRq6_dro8804SRVbF2dSiigtOD14wR7QtY5UjO_1A&m=Dx7mefDjh06qa5jHlk5zyvPPTNMZGMngdDh6OH6sUEE&s=dPPJBIHxmP2Ed5cxULTVnmZe8IzCyWdCIsasXuctVMw&e=>> wrote:

He is the owner of the property.

Rob Lynch

Compliance Officer

City of Rochester - Building, Zoning, & Licensing Services

Robert Lynch

RE: Precision Auto Public Safety Problems

June 8, 2021 at 1:15 PM

L

Jim Grant

, Blaine Cox

, Shanna Saunders

, Allen

, Jeremy Hutchinson

, Gary Boudreau

Lisa, I will address that issue.

Rob Lynch

Compliance Officer

City of Rochester - Building, Zoning, & Licensing Services

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Rochester, NH 03867

Tel: (603) 332-3508

robert.lynch@rochesternh.net

<http://www.rochesternh.net/building-zoning-and-licensing-services>

From: L <lag0131@yahoo.com>

Sent: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 1:11 PM

To: Robert Lynch <robert.lynch@rochesternh.net>

Cc: Jim Grant <jim.grant@rochesternh.net>; Blaine Cox <blaine.cox@rochesternh.net>;

Jeremy Hutchinson <jeremy.hutchinson@rochesternh.net>; Shanna Saunders

<shanna.saunders@rochesternh.net>; Gary Boudreau

<gary.boudreau@rochesternh.net>; Allen <awl3nh65@aol.com>

Subject: Precision Auto Public Safety Problems

Good morning Mr Lynch.

Thank you for the reply regarding my Trespassing issue with Mr McCarthy. I will address that accordingly.

This comes to you regarding Mr McCarthy's on-going disregard for public safety at our hazardous intersection. I have included a photo of the vehicles he is beginning again to place past the stop sign. This is how it begins after he complies with your request to move them back in line with the sign, he inches them past a few at a time, until eventually all vehicles are past the stop sign. That entire line of cars is a problem to begin with as they completely block the sight from traffic approaching that stop sign. Traffic then has to pull past the sign to safely see what is coming and going from all directions and driveways. This is especially difficult coming and going in our driveway at 107 Salmon Falls Road. The further he places the vehicles, the more difficult and unsafe it is to navigate that heavily and speedily travelled intersection and our driveway.

Furthermore, as you know from previous emails and pictures, he allows customers, vendors, etc to park beyond his row of vehicles. You also know that, this past winter, Mr McCarthy repeatedly created additional hazards by plowing his snow beyond the stop sign. I have sent those pictures as well in prior emails. I've sent one I can readily attach from this past winter.

I'm asking that you please address a permanent solution with Mr McCarthy for contributing to the safety of our hazardous intersection? In my opinion, a row of cars parked along Salmon Falls Road is hazardous to begin with. His "display of 10 cars" would be more safely kept alongside his building, which would reflect the history of use with that location. This very small parcel of land in an R-1 Zone, does not support the business Mr McCarthy has created there. In no way, shape or form does it reflect the type of property that Mr Ramsey maintained nor did the few owners after

him.

I will be addressing these issues with the proper Board(s), Individuals and departments, as my time permits.

Thank you, for whatever assistance you are able to be in the meantime, in order to maintain safety at our very busy and hazardous intersection. Lisa Littlefield

1st photo is from today 6/8/20210



Photo 2 is from 2/9/2021





Sent from my iPhone

L
Safety Hazard Precision Auto
June 22, 2021 at 12:25 PM
Robert Lynch
Jim.Grant@rochesternh.net

Shanna Saunders

Blaine Cox
Jeremy Hutchinson
, Allen

, Gary Boudreau

Mr Lynch,
I'm forwarding a photo to report that Mr McCarthy is allowing the usual parking beyond the stop sign, which creates an additional hazard at our busy intersection and driveways. Please make him stop. He has no regard for public safety and, as you know, he does this repeatedly.

Lisa Littlefield

