

**Public Safety Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 17, 2022
6:00 PM
Council Chambers**

Members Present

Councilor Peter Lachapelle, Chair
Councilor Dana Berlin
Councilor Skip Gilman
Councilor Alexander de Geofroy
Councilor Amy Malone

Others Present

Michael Bezanson, PE, City Engineer
Dan Camara, GIS Asset Mgmt. Technician
Captain Todd Pinkham, PD
Bob Mayrand, 514 Salmon Falls Road
Maggie McConaghy, 12 Landry Lane
Ronda Boisvert, DPW

Minutes

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

1. Approve Minutes from June 15, 2022 Public Safety Meeting.

Councilor Berlin MOVED to approve the minutes from June 15, 2022. Councilor Gilman seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED by a unanimous voice vote.

2. Public Input

Mr. Mayrand was present to discuss the speeding and noise issues on Salmon Falls Road. He wanted to overview the letter he sent to the Committee. He stated that he felt it was time to set up the noise abatement signs. The motorists in vehicles and motorcycles seem to be challenging each other to see how loud they can get. He stated that he felt motorcycle ride quiet signs were needed on the northbound and southbound lanes near the newly installed 25 mph signs and that Traffic Logix speed feedback signs are needed as well. He said a lot of towns are using the flashing speed feedback signs now. He said he also felt that a no engine or jake beak sign should be located by Stonewall Drive. He stated he has been coming to the Public Safety Committee meetings since February and no one has given him a reason why these signs could not be put up. Mr. Mayrand said he would like someone doing periodic monitoring on Salmon Falls Road once or twice a week, or even once every other week. Councilor Lachapelle said in July they had done extra patrol. Captain Pinkham said since the last meeting on June 15, 2022, there were 70 traffic stops made on Salmon Falls Road. Councilor Lachapelle said the signs have only been up for 2 weeks and there is still speeding. He said too many signs is just traffic sign pollution. Councilor Berlin said a solution would be a speed table. Mr. Bezanson said DPW now has the 2 speed feedback signs that PD had acquired, one of which is planned for Salmon Falls Road, and the cost

to install the two signs would be approximately \$5,000. Councilor Lachapelle said he would rather do both at the same time to keep the cost down. This was kept in committee and Mr. Bezanson will work on funding for the installation of the speed feedback signs.

3. Pickering Road by Gonic Post Office “No Parking”

This was agenda item number 5, but was moved up on the agenda as there was a member of the public present to talk about this issue. Councilor Lachapelle summarized the issue. Maggie McConaghy, who lives in Rochester, was present to talk about the safety issues associated with parked vehicles and the curvature of Pickering Road in Gonic. When travelling westbound on Pickering and attempting to make a left turn onto Church Street southbound, it is very difficult to see oncoming traffic from Pickering especially if vehicles are parked along the roadway. She also said those same parked vehicles make it difficult to see pedestrians attempting to use the crosswalk to the Gonic Post Office when travelling through on Pickering. Councilor Berlin said he would be in favor of posting no parking in that entire area. He said other places have limited off street parking as well. Ms. McConaghy suggested that temporary no parking signs could be installed to see how well they will work. Councilor Berlin said they could put ‘no parking’ signs during certain times of the day. **Councilor Malone MOVED to install temporary" no parking" signs on Pickering Road between the crosswalk and the fire hydrant for one month. Councilor Berlin seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED by a unanimous voice vote.**

Councilor Lachapelle mentioned another safety issue in the same area of Gonic that had been sent to the Committee by email regarding speed problems on Colby Street. One of the suggestions made was to convert Colby Street to one way. Mr. Bezanson mentioned that he would need to discuss this idea with NHDOT; NHDOT will be involved since such a change would require reprogramming the traffic signals on NH Route 125. Councilor Lachapelle said he would also like to get feedback from the people who live on Colby Street. There is also a concern with large trucks turning onto Colby from 125. Councilor Berlin suggested installing "no thru trucks" signs on Colby Street. **Councilor Berlin MOVED to install "no thru trucks" signs on Colby Street. Councilor de Geofroy seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED by a unanimous voice vote.** Councilor Lachapelle said there will need to be further discussion on making Colby Street a one way.

4. Flat Rock Bridge Road/Salmon Falls Road Intersection Safety concerns (kept in committee)

Councilor Lachapelle summarized the issue. Mr. Bezanson said that he did not have an update this month.

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

Councilor Lachapelle summarized the issue. Mr. Bezanson said he did not have

a cost update for installing poles and streetlights yet. **(kept in committee)**

6. Request “Speed Limit” Signs on Winter Street (request was sent by City Manager)

Councilor Lachapelle summarized the issue. Councilor Berlin said there is already a speed limit sign on Winter Street because of it being a school zone. He stated he drives this area every day. Councilor Lachapelle said it was also suggested a 4 way stop in the area. Councilor Berlin said a couple different areas on Winter Street could have a 4 way stop; he said he doesn't think he would be in favor of the 4 way stop. No action taken.

7. Creteau Street-Dead End or No Outlet sign

Councilor Lachapelle summarized the issue. He said this is near the Strafford Square Construction. Vehicles are going down High Street because of the construction. Mr. Bezanson said the construction would continue for at least another year. Mr. Bezanson said a "dead end" sign would be the correct sign for this area. He said he doesn't know if DPW has one in stock at this time. ***Councilor de Geofroy MOVED to install a "dead end" sign on Creteau Street. Councilor Malone seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED by a unanimous voice vote.***

8. Sewell Road-Speeding Concerns & Lack of Signage

Councilor Lachapelle summarized the issue; he said it is a cut through between Cross and Milton Roads. Councilor de Geofroy said there is construction on Betts Road right now with a detour in place. Mr. Bezanson said that Betts Road is scheduled to be open to through traffic by Friday; there is still work to be done, but it will only require lane closures not the whole road. No action taken.

9. Other

Salmon Falls Road/Flat Rock Bridge Road

Councilor Gilman said he had a constituent reach out to him about not being able to see around the car dealership due to cars in the way. Councilor Lachapelle said this is still in committee.

Chestnut Hill Road Encampment

Councilor Malone wanted to know if there was an update on the encampment on Chestnut Hill Road. Councilor Lachapelle said he did not have an update.

Downtown

Councilor Malone said that she had seen 5 to 6 vehicles travelling the wrong way in downtown. She talked to one lady who went the wrong way and she said she was from out of town and she took a left out of the Congress Street Parking Lot because there were no signs saying one way. Councilor Malone said that happens a lot. People who have been here know the area is a one way but people from out of town do not. Mr. Bezanson said he will look into it.

She also said that downtown at the Union Street/North Main Street intersection, you cannot see the pedestrian signal because the metal is bent down so far. Councilor Lachapelle said you do not need a council recommendation for that. Mr. Bezanson will have DPW look into it.

William Allen School

Mr. Bezanson said that there is construction in the area and school would be starting soon. He said DPW has been working on a plan with the school and PD for bussing and drop off. Both bus and parent drop off/pick up traffic will be going down Granite Street. Busses will stay on the road and parents will be routed in toward the school.

Flat Rock Bridge Road Cumberland Farms

Councilor Lachapelle said that he received a request from Mr. Varney regarding the "no parking" areas in front of Cumberland Farms on Milton Road near Flat Rock Bridge Road, as well as in front of the Dunkin Donuts on Milton Road. Mr. Varney suggested using orange barrels similar to the South Main/Columbus intersection to keep the big trucks from parking there. Councilor Lachapelle said he also sees this at the Dunkin on Gonic Road Route 125. He saw an 18 wheeler with his hazards on in the center left turning lane while the driver ran into Dunkin. It was suggested to put orange barrels in the area. Mr. Bezanson said they could try that, but would look into other options. This was kept in committee.

Councilor Lachapelle ADJOURNED the meeting at 7:08.

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