

**Public Safety Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
September 21, 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  
Deputy Chief Jason Thomas, PD  
Andrew Herman, 52A Pickering Road  
Emily Talon, 52A Pickering Road  
Ronda Boisvert, DPW

**Minutes**

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

**1. Public Input**

Andrew Herman and Emily Talon from 52A Pickering Road were present to discuss safety and parking issues in the Pickering Road/Church Street intersection area. Mr. Herman said that the real issue in the area is speeding; taking the parking spaces away does affect them as their apartment building is right in front of where the temporary “no parking” signs have been placed. Councilor Lachapelle said it is very difficult to see traffic coming from around the corner when there are cars parked in that area across from the post office to the fire hydrant. Taking a left out of Church Street is hard; and, you have to edge out to see. Changing the location of a crosswalk would require a curb cut; if a speed bump were installed in one location, it will escalate from there and be requested in many other locations. Permanently installed speed bumps will cause havoc with snowplows. Councilor Berlin said he is in favor of speed tables but does not think they will be beneficial in this area. The real issue for the no parking for him was when he was turning left he saw a woman waiting to cross and ended up going down to the other crosswalk to cross Pickering. Councilor Lachapelle said the line of sight is much better. Councilor Lachapelle asked Mr. Bezanson if a rapid rectangular flashing beacon would be appropriate in this area. Mr. Bezanson said that they also have one of the radar feedback speed signs that could be placed on the approach to Gonic. Councilor Berlin suggested pedestrian signs at the crosswalk, and supported the installation of the radar feedback sign in this area. Councilor de Geofroy said he was also in support of the flashing sign. Councilor Lachapelle said that they could discuss under other the speed limit sign and bring to full council. Councilor Gilman asked if the crosswalk could be moved. Mr. Bezanson said since there is already another crosswalk, he would probably recommend removing the crosswalk altogether rather than moving it to another location. Councilor Berlin asked Deputy

Chief Thomas if they ever do stings around the City. Deputy Chief Thomas said they have a unit called POP, Problem Oriented Policing. They have not had the unit for the past year due to staffing. They have had one of the POP officers in plain clothes who radios another about violations. He said at the end of this year they are confident they can fill this unit. Councilor Lachapelle will take Mr. Herman's name and number and keep him updated.

2. **Approve Minutes from August 17, 2022 Public Safety Meeting.**  
*Councilor Berlin MOVED to approve the minutes from August 17, 2022 Councilor Malone seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED by a unanimous voice vote.*
3. **Flat Rock Bridge Road/Salmon Falls Road intersection Safety Concerns (kept in committee)**  
Councilor Lachapelle summarized the issue. Mr. Bezanson said he is still working on this issue, but has no update for tonight.
4. **Safety Issue Crosswalk Columbus Avenue near KFC (Route 125) (request was sent by Councilor Berlin) (kept in committee)**  
Councilor Lachapelle summarized the issue. Mr. Bezanson said he is still working on getting a cost estimate for lighting; no update for tonight.
5. **Columbus Avenue-Request Crosswalk/Sidewalk**  
Councilor Lachapelle summarized the issue. A call came into the Department of Public Works for a crosswalk request near 682 Columbus Avenue. Ms. Pare stated her children are unable to take the bus; they need to walk, but it's dangerous and not safe for them to walk. Mr. Lachapelle asked Mr. Bezanson if there would be any projects in the area. Mr. Bezanson said that there has been discussion among City staff regarding adding sidewalk on Old Dover Road that would connect to Columbus Avenue, but so far there is no funding for this. There is a project to address the intersections of Columbus/Old Dover/Wilson and Columbus/Charles in the NHDOT Ten Year Plan, but construction is at least 7 years out. Mr. Bezanson said that there is existing sidewalk on the opposite side of Columbus Avenue, but finding a short term solution to add sidewalk and crosswalk to connect to the existing from this property would be very difficult. Councilor Berlin suggested that there is a paved area across from Jiffy Lube where it looks like a drain is located; could a crosswalk be located there? Mr. Bezanson said the limits of the right of way would need to be determined, potentially requiring negotiations with private land owners, a sidewalk would need to be installed along with curb ramps; this location is not a recommended location for a mid-block crosswalk. No Action.
6. **Colby Street-One-way**  
Councilor Lachapelle summarized the issue. Mr. Bezanson reached out to NHDOT regarding converting Colby to a one-way street and the State would like to look more in depth at the proposal, conduct traffic counts, and perform a traffic signal analysis which includes Chesley Hill Road intersection as well. The State

Highway Safety Engineer is planning to conduct a study of Church Street and Route 125, so Mr. Bezanson asked if they could include these 2 traffic signals to the north in the analysis as well. No firm commitment from the State yet; Mr. Bezanson will keep the Committee updated. Mr. Lachapelle asked about the accident in Gonic. Deputy Chief Thomas said it was 2 vehicles going through red lights. Mr. Bezanson said the “no thru trucks” signs have been installed. The ones installed say “Class 8 and above”; signs that read only “no thru trucks” are on order and will be installed once received. Councilor Berlin asked Mr. Bezanson to explain what Class 8 means. Mr. Bezanson said Class 8 refers to larger trucks. **(kept in committee)**

**7. Flat Rock Bridge/Milton Road by Cumberland Farms and Dunkin Donuts Parking Issues**

Councilor Lachapelle summarized the issue. Large trucks parking in “no parking” areas are causing line of sight issues. Deputy Chief Thomas said that the parking enforcement officer is in the area twice a day and it is on her radar to check for violations. Mr. Bezanson said that DPW had discussed options and propose moving the location of the “no parking” signs out into paved area, maybe about five or six feet from the curb. ***Councilor Berlin MOVED to recommend to full council to install “no parking” signs across the street of Cumberland Farms. Councilor Malone seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED by a unanimous voice vote.***

**8. Downtown-Speeding issues**

Councilor Lachapelle summarized the issue. Councilor Malone said a sign has been fixed. Councilor Berlin mentioned the issue of wrong-way drivers on Congress Street; should there be a “no left turn” or “wrong way” sign installed near the parking lot? Councilor Malone said if you’re from out of town you might not know it’s a one way. Mr. Bezanson said a “right turn only” sign and/or painted symbols could be installed. Councilor Berlin said the existing “do not enter” sign could be moved a little. Mr. Bezanson agreed that the “do not enter” sign could be relocated and a motion from the Committee would not be needed because it is an existing sign.

**9. Emergency Call Boxes (request from Councilor Berlin)**

Councilor Lachapelle summarized the issue. Councilor Berlin explained what emergency call boxes are. It is a direct line to dispatch you see a lot on college campus. He said some have cameras; he thinks they would be beneficial for Rochester as there have been a lot of tagging issues. Might not be used a lot, but they are there for safety. Councilor Berlin asked if anybody had questions. Councilor de Geofroy said he would like the two issues be separate; he supports the emergency boxes, but said a need for surveillance would need to be discussed more broadly. Councilor Berlin said he does not feel it would be beneficial without the cameras. Deputy Chief Thomas said the Police Department wouldn’t be against it. UNH campus has them and they will keep but not adding anymore. You get more crank calls than real calls. The call boxes were more prevalent before

there were a lot of cell phones. Councilor Lachapelle asked Councilor Berlin if he could get information for the councilors about call boxes for next month's meeting. Mr. Bezanson said he is on the Parking Review Group and one of the things they're talking about is parking and safety situations. How safe you feel in parking lots and going to venues. Also, as part of the design of the Union Street Municipal Parking Lot reconstruction project, emergency call boxes have been discussed. Councilor Berlin had discussed with Chief Boudreau installing a few to start in certain areas. Councilor Berlin said there were several different options and can be solar-powered. Councilor Berlin will get more information regarding call boxes and distribute to the Committee prior to the next meeting. **(kept in committee)**

**10. Winter Street "No Parking" Request" (request from Councilor Berlin)**

Councilor Lachapelle summarized the issue. Councilor Berlin said there is a sidewalk on Winter Street, but after Silver Street the sidewalk is on the left hand side; there are no parking signs, but vehicles are parking on the sidewalk to get around the no parking on the street. Not sure what can be done because they technically may not be breaking any rules if there is no defined sidewalk. Deputy Chief Thomas said you cannot park on the sidewalk. Mr. Bezanson said there could be extra pavement that residents have installed in front of their houses; he said this area is planned to be part of a future CIP project. The infrastructure in this area is in need of rehabilitation, but this project may continue to be pushed out depending upon the priority of other CIP projects. Curbing would be addressed in the project and street parking would be evaluated during design. Councilor Berlin would like some information to bring back to the person who sent the request. No action taken.

**11. Franklin Street brush Request (request from Councilor Berlin)**

Councilor Lachapelle summarized the issue. Councilor Berlin said that the person who sent this request to him just wanted information when pruning is done. Mr. Bezanson said he doesn't know if there is a set schedule; fall is normally a good time for the DPW to address roadside trimming. He stated that they encourage residents to call in when they see areas that need to be pruned.

**12. Other**

**Pickering Road in Gonic**

Councilor Lachapelle said he would like to know the best location for the radar feedback speed sign. ***Councilor Malone MOVED to recommend to full council to install radar feedback speed sign near the Pickering Road bridge at the discretion of DPW. Councilor de Geofroy seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED by a unanimous voice vote.***

**In front Of U-Haul on South Main Street**

Councilor Lachapelle asked Mr. Bezanson if the crosswalk has been painted recently in front of the U-Haul on South Main Street and if they could add a crosswalk sign. Mr. Bezanson will look into this.

**51A Charles Street Eyesore a lot of Stuff in front**

Councilor Lachapelle said that a request came in to remove the items in front of 51A Charles Street it continues to be an eyesore. Deputy Chief Thomas will look into this and get Code Enforcement involved with this if needed.

**Hospital Sign-Whitehall Road**

Councilor Lachapelle said a request came in to the City Clerk's office regarding a right turn to hospital. There is one coming from Salmon Falls Road to turn left but not the other way. Councilor Lachapelle will get more information. **(this was kept in committee)**

**187 Old Dover/Tebbetts-Request white painted stop line on Tebbetts Road**

Deputy Chief Thomas said he got a request from the resident of 187 Old Dover Road. He has got a lot of debris in his yard from accidents and is requesting that the white painted stop sign line get repainted, because it is faded. Mr. Bezanson will look into this. He also said there was a Roadway Safety Audit conducted for the intersection of Old Dover Road/Tebbetts Road; and, the City recently signed a project agreement with NHDOT and a safety improvement project is in the design phase now.

**202/Estes Safety Improvement Project**

Mr. Bezanson shared an update on the NHDOT Route 202/Estes Road safety improvement project. Mr. Bezanson has updated the State that the City completed paving on Estes Road, which included slightly raising the elevation of the road at this intersection. Mr. Bezanson said that the State informed him that preliminary design funding has been obligated and they will be moving forward in early fall with survey and hiring a design consultant. Councilor de Geofroy asked if there was anything being done on the Crown Point side. Mr. Bezanson said that the City has conducted a site walk of that area with NHDOT as well, but there is no defined project to address that intersection yet.

**Councilor Lachapelle ADJOURNED the meeting at 7:23 PM.**

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