



*City of Rochester, New  
Hampshire*

CITY COUNCIL

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

31 Wakefield Street □ Rochester, NH 03867

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[www.RochesterNH.gov](http://www.RochesterNH.gov)

March 8, 2023

**TO:** Public Safety Committee

**REGARDING:** Public Safety Committee Meeting

There will be a Public Safety Committee meeting on **March 15, 2023** at 6:00 p.m.  
in Council Chambers.

**AGENDA**

1. Approve Minutes from February 15, 2023 Public Safety Meeting pages 1-3
2. Public Input
3. Salmon Falls Road Speed Limit Issue and Electronic Sign Placement (kept in committee)
4. Flashing Lights and Raised Table Policy Discussion
5. Hemlock/Lowell Street-Missing Stop Sign (kept in committee)
6. Other

cc.

Mayor and City Council  
Chief Gary Boudreau  
Deputy Chief Jason Thomas  
Fire Chief Dennis Dube  
Mr. Michael Bezanson  
Mr. Timothy Goldthwaite  
Ms. Lisa Clark

**Public Safety Committee  
Draft Meeting Minutes  
February 15, 2023  
6:00 PM  
Council Chambers**

**Members Present**

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

**Members Absent**

Councilor Dana Berlin

**Others Present**

Michael Bezanson, PE, City Engineer  
Gina Golden-Silvestro, GIS/AM Technician  
Lt. Elizabeth Turner, PD  
Dave Smith 588 Salmon Falls Road  
Martin Hamel, 584 Salmon Falls Road  
Sergei Markovskii, 119 Oak Street

**Minutes**

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

**1. Approve Minutes from Public Safety Meeting.**

***Councilor Malone MOVED to approve the minutes from January 18, 2023. Councilor Gilman seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED by a unanimous voice vote.***

**2. Public Input**

David Smith of 588 Salmon Falls Road was present to talk about speed limits on Salmon Falls Road and the flashing electronic sign that is located at 584 Salmon Falls Road. Mr. Smith has begun to obtain signatures for a petition to: 1) remove the electronic sign, 2) change the speed limit back to 35 mph where it was recently lowered to 25 mph, 3) change the speed limit to 40 mph heading toward Somersworth, and 4) remove the discrepancy in speed limit where one direction is 35 mph and the other is 30 mph. Mr. Smith stated that this area is not a neighborhood or downtown; it's a route to move traffic to Maine or Rochester. He doesn't feel that speed is the primary concern; the original complaint came from a resident that lives about 500 feet from the intersection of Portland Street and was regarding noise. Mr. Smith stated that Salmon Falls Road is noisy; it's just part of living on the road if you wanted a quieter location you would have to move. Mr. Smith currently has 12 signatures on the petition. Mr. Hamel of 584 Salmon Falls Road was present to discuss the electronic sign that is in front of his property; he would like it removed. Previously there was a sign in place on wheels that was located near his lilac bushes; he wonders why the flashing electronic sign could not be placed in that area and not in front of his living room window.

### 3. Oak Street-Sign Near 119 Oak Street (kept in committee)

Councilor Lachapelle summarized the issue. Mr. Bezanson evaluated this area of Oak Street with the DPW Highway Supervisor and proposed that 100 feet of culvert pipe could be installed with DPW crews; they could purchase the pipe and other materials, use in house equipment and labor. Mr. Bezanson said there is plenty of grade for the water to flow in a pipe. Drainage currently flows along the side of the road from Barrington Lane to a brook just west of the 119 Oak Street driveway. DPW would need to replace the existing driveway culvert and repave the driveway apron area. Councilor Lachapelle asked if the shoulder would be extended. Mr. Bezanson said yes, the area of the proposed culvert pipe would be filled in and provide enough roadway shoulder for a vehicle to potentially recover if it went off the road. Councilor de Geofroy asked if the shoulder would be vehicle bearing. Mr. Bezanson said yes it would be compacted when installed. **Councilor Malone MOVED to recommend to full Council to extend the driveway culvert and shoulder at 119 Oak Street at the discretion of DPW. Councilor de Geofroy seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED by unanimous voice vote.**

### 4. Salmon Falls Road Noise Abatement Signs (Request came from Councilor Gilman)

Item # 5 was moved up on the agenda members of the public were present for this Item. Councilor Gilman said he had received some speed and noise complaints and a resident was requesting some signs. Councilor Lachapelle thinks “speed limit” signs are not working and putting more signs up is sign pollution. Councilor de Geofroy asked if 25 mph is an appropriate speed for this area and should it be best practice. Mr. Bezanson said it is an approach to a “stop” sign, eventually motorists would have to get to 0 mph. Councilor Lachapelle said he feels bad for the gentleman that has the electronic sign in front of his living room window and asked Mr. Bezanson if it was placed correctly. Mr. Bezanson said he would look into it and said he thought it was placed there because that was the location of the previous speed limit sign. Councilor Malone said everything we do seems to have a domino effect. She stated that the Salmon Falls Road residents’ opinions should matter and wanted to know if the sign could be moved so it was not an eyesore. Councilor Lachapelle said to Mr. Smith to keep getting other signatures. Councilor de Geofroy said it sounds like no real value is coming from the electronic sign; and, if we are discussing taking it out to move it, should we discuss simply removing it from this location altogether? Councilor Gilman stated that he felt that the electronic sign does work effectively for alerting motorists and slowing traffic. Councilor de Geofroy asked how difficult it would be to get data from before the electronic sign was placed and after it was placed. Councilor Lachapelle said they could see if the speed trailer could be put blackout in the area. Councilor Lachapelle said this issue would not be resolved tonight. **(This was kept in committee for more research). Councilor Gilman MOVED to recommend to full Council to install 2 signs on Salmon Falls Road to ride quietly, 1 on each end. Councilor Malone seconded the motion. Voice vote was 2 to 2; will go to full Council for vote.**

### 5. Intersection of Summer and Columbus-Request to Change Pedestrian Walk

**Sign to Push Button (Request came in from City Mangers office)**

Councilor Lachapelle summarized the issue. Mr. Bezanson said that DPW's signal contractor was working at this intersection today and they retimed the pedestrian signal. Councilor de Geofroy stated the request for the pedestrian walk sign be changed to a push button. Mr. Bezanson said there is a capital project in design for this intersection and this will be addressed during the construction of this project.

**6. Flashing Lights and Raised Table Policy Discussion (This item was kept in committee)**

Councilor Berlin was not present to discuss this item.

**7. Other**

**Downtown Patrols**

Lt. Elizabeth Turner said they have started extra patrols in the downtown area to address different violations and address speeding issues. The POP unit alone logged a total of 8 hours of directed patrol for the downtown area in the last month, which does not include other patrols.

**COAST Bus Stop Relocation Near Cove Court**

Mr. Bezanson said he was contacted by COAST Bus company regarding relocation of the bus stop near Cove Court to a location to the west near the no parking zone just past a crosswalk. The Committee agreed that the COAST Bus stop could be moved and that they didn't believe they needed to vote on this.

**Stop Sign End of Hemlock/Lowell is Missing**

Councilor Lachapelle said that someone said that the "stop" sign at the end of Hemlock at Lowell was missing. Mr. Bezanson said he would check to see if there was a "stop" sign previously there. **(kept in committee)**

**Councilor Lachapelle ADJOURNED the meeting at 6:44 PM.**

The minutes were respectfully submitted by Laura J. McDormand, Admin and Utility Billing Supervisor