

City of Rochester, New Hampshire

CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
31 Wakefield Street □ Rochester, NH 03867
(603) 332-1167

www.RochesterNH.gov

April 12, 2023

TO: Public Safety Committee

REGARDING: Public Safety Committee Meeting

There will be a Public Safety Committee meeting on **April 19, 2023** at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

AGENDA

- 1. Approve Minutes from March 15, 2023 Public Safety Meeting- Pages 1-7
- 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. Quarry Drive Requesting Additional Speed Limit Sign
- 6. Salmon Falls Road Requesting "Deer Crossing" Sign- (email came in to City Manager) -Page 8
- 7. Street-light Request-53 Gear Road-Page 9
- 8. Autumn Street "No Thru Truck Signs or Other Measures (Councilor Lachapelle)
 Page 10
- 9. Speeding Issue near 6 and 7 Magic Avenue-Page 11
- 10. Crowhill Road-Requesting "Dead End" or "No Outlet" Sign- Page 12
- 11. Norway Plains Road Speeding Issues-(letter sent to City Manager's office)-Page 13
- 12. 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 March 15, 2023 6:00 PM Council Chambers

Members Present

Councilor Peter Lachapelle, Chair Councilor Alexander de Geofroy Councilor Skip Gilman Councilor Dana Berlin Members Absent Councilor Amy Malone Others Present

Michael Bezanson, PE, City Engineer Gina Golden-Silvestro, GIS/AM Technician Deputy Chief Jason Thomas, PD Dave Smith, 588 Salmon Falls Road Martin Hamel, 584 Salmon Falls Road

Minutes

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

1. Approve Minutes from Public Safety Meeting
Councilor Gilman MOVED to approve the minutes from February 15, 2023.
Councilor Berlin seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED by a unanimous voice vote.

2. Public Input

No public input, the members of the public present at the meeting were there to speak on specific agenda items.

3. Salmon Falls Road Speed Limit Issue and Electronic Sign Placement (kept in committee)

Councilor Lachapelle summarized the issue. David Smith of 588 Salmon Falls Road was present to talk about the speed limit and the electronic sign on Salmon Falls Road. He stated that there are now 33 names on the petition form: people who live in the neighborhood and on Stonewall Drive. Mr. Smith said that the speed limit by Tara Estates on Salmon Falls Road are two different speed limits depending what direction you are traveling. Mr. Smith said there is no other street that has a 25 mph speed limit 2000 feet from a stop sign. Councilor Gilman said it should be left 25 mph for the time being because there have been complaints with residents in this area regarding speed. Councilor Lachapelle said that the person who asked for the illuminating signs said that they are not working. Councilor Berlin said what he remembers is that he thought the sign was supposed to be a removable sign and it is more of a stationary sign that can't be moved. He said he doesn't think it makes sense to just take it down to put it in storage; the Committee should find a different area in Rochester that this sign is better suited for. Mr. Bezanson said he was asked to look to see if there were other areas that the sign could be placed on Salmon Falls Road and said it would be

difficult to find an area where it wouldn't affect someone on Salmon Falls Road. Mr. Bezanson said DPW looked into options for the sign to reduce impacts to neighbors, but shields are not available for this type of sign. DPW may be able to look further into reprogramming the sign to be off during certain times, but that seems to diminish the potential effectiveness of the sign. He said they looked at the cost to move the sign which would be approximately \$1,500 to \$2,500 plus the DPW crew and equipment time to excavate and relocate the sign base. Mr. Bezanson said he really doesn't have a recommendation at this point. Councilor Lachapelle said he would be in favor to have the speed limit back up to 35 mph. Councilor Berlin MOVED to recommend to full Council to change the speed limit on Salmon Falls Road coming from Maine to 35 mph to be uniform with the speed limit in the other direction. Councilor de Geofroy seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED by unanimous voice vote.

Councilor de Geofroy asked if DPW thought there was as better place for the electronic sign other than Salmon Falls Road. Deputy Chief Thomas said he will ask at the Police Department if they know there are some areas that could benefit from this sign, he said there is some areas on Whitehall Road that the sign might be able to be placed. Deputy Chief Thomas and DPW will work to find an area for the electronic sign and will get back to the Committee.

4. Flashing Lights and Raised Table Policy Discussion

Councilor Lachapelle summarize the issue. Councilor Berlin drafted a Raised Speed Table Policy and the Committee discussed it. The raised speed table guidelines Mr. Berlin drafted are as follows:

Raised Speed Table Guidelines

- 1. Speed limit on street must be 25 MPH or below, *or,* location be within a school zone
- 2. Street must not be a dead-end (excluding school zones)
- 3. Street or street segments must be no shorter than 500 feet in length (segment defined as an area of the same street between consecutive intersections. (excluding school zones)
- 4. Speed Table must be no closer than 200 feet from a stop sign or intersection
- 5. Speed Table must be no closer than 75 feet from a residential or commercial driveway (excluding school zones)
- 6. AADT must be above 2000 (if data available) (excluding school zones) https://nhdot.public.ms2soft.com/tcds/tsearch.asp?loc=Nhdot&mod=TCDS
- 7. Speed Table must include a crosswalk (at an existing crosswalk or the ability to add a crosswalk with no alterations to the surrounding sidewalk infrastructure)
- 8. Speed Tables are not permitted in the following zoning districts (excluding school zones):
 - a. Agricultural
 - b. Highway Commercial
 - c. General Industrial
 - d. Airport Special

- e. Recycling Industrial
- f. Office Commercial
- Public hearing must be scheduled if 1-8 are met, prior to a formal council vote
 IF APPROVED: Speed Table design and implementation must comply with all State and Federal regulations (DPW issue)

Councilor Lachapelle thanked Councilor Berlin for drafting the guidelines and said he wants to bring this to the Public Works & Buildings Committee and to the Codes and Ordinances Committee; and, also wants the Legal Department to review before it is considered for an ordinance. Councilor de Geofroy also thanked Councilor Berlin and asked if he could distribute an editable MS Word version of the document. (This was kept in committee for further review)

5. Hemlock/Lowell Streets-Missing Stop Signs (kept in committee)

Councilor Lachapelle stated he does not recall a "stop" sign in this location. Mr. Bezanson stated that DPW has no record of a "stop" sign at this location. Councilor de Geofroy MOVED to recommend to full Council to install a "stop" sign at the intersection of Hemlock/Lowell Streets. Councilor Berlin seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED by unanimous voice vote.

6. Other

Quarry Drive-Speed Limit Sign

Mr. Bezanson said there was an email request that came in from a resident that said the area is like a raceway; the email also stated that the Police do a good job patrolling the area. The resident is requesting an additional 30 mph speed limit sign on Lowell headed toward Tebbetts going up the hill near the Catholic Church. Mr. Bezanson said he would like data from the speed trailer before a decision is made. Deputy Chief Thomas will put this item on the list for the speed trailer.

Ledgeview Drive Gunfire

Councilor Lachapelle said he sent the City Manager an email that he had received regarding the gunfire on Ledgeview Drive. Councilor Lachapelle said the gunfire was actually coming from a safe place at the Mitchell Hill Dairy Farm on Oak Street firing into a hill, so there were no safety violations. Deputy Chief Thomas said that the only violation that they are still investigating would be that they may be trespassing.

Winter Street

Councilor Lachapelle had a conversation with Councilor Hamman regarding vehicles that are not stopping in either direction near the entrance to the one-way connection between Rockingham Electrical Supply and Walgreens; and, a "stop" sign has been requested. Councilor Lachapelle said it is private property. Councilor Berlin said he travels this area every day and said no one should be driving fast in this area he drives about 5 mph. Councilor Lachapelle asked if they should approach Rockingham Electric to place a "stop" sign. Councilor Lachapelle asked Deputy Chief if there were any issues in the area; Deputy Chief Thomas said he did not know there was an issue in this area. No action taken.

Downtown Parking

Councilor Lachapelle said he got a call from a gentleman about downtown parking; the delivery trucks are parking in the way and mail trucks parking on the crosswalks. Deputy Chief Thomas said they should not stop on a crosswalk. Councilor Lachapelle said they really can't do anything because the downtown businesses have to receive their goods. Councilor de Geofroy said that the Planning Board is hosting a parking review poster session next Wednesday, March 22, 2023 and recommends that the concerned resident attend to voice their opinion. Mr. Bezanson said that the rehabilitation project for the Union Street Municipal Parking Lot will include an area for delivery vehicles to park and unload.

Councilor Lachapelle ADJOURNED the meeting at 6:51 PM.

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

PETITION TO THE CITY OF ROCHESTER SAFETY COMMISSION FOR THE REMOVAL OF ELECTRONIC SPEED SIGN AND CHANGE TO SPEED LIMITS ON SALMON FALLS RD

This petition seeks to address several traffic signage and speed limit changes along Salmon Falls Rd from Portland Ave to the Somersworth town line. It is our opinion and observation that the recent changes to the speed limit and electronic signage poses safety issues as well as infringing upon the rights of the residents living within the parameters of the aforementioned roadway. The following specifically addresses those issues.

- Remove the electronic sign that was placed in November directly in front of 584 Salmon Falls Rd. The sign directly infringes on the owners' property rights due to the obtrusive nature of the sign as well as the flashing nature of the sign. This is also highly visible to 588 Salmon Falls Rd
 - The electronic sign also poses a safety hazard as vehicles brake heavily directly before the sign which have almost caused several near rear end accidents.
- 2) Reinstitute the 35 MPH speed limit as the 25 MPH limit is not applicable to the road type and is causing traffic tie ups and unsafe conditions. Salmon Falls Rd is not a neighborhood. There are no sidewalks, school zones, or business zones. The purpose is to carry traffic from Rochester to points east and west. Based on the nationally recognized 85th percentile rule for establishing speed limits, the speed should be between 35-45 MPH. Due to the reduced speed limit vehicles are now passing on the double solid.
- 3) Raise the posted speed limit to 40 MPH from the corner after Tara Estates up to the Somersworth city line. Again, this is in accordance with the safe limits of the road as well as within the standard of the 85th percentile rule.
- 4) Change the speed limit sign from the corner of Tara Estates heading west towards Portland Ave to 35 MPH to coincide with the 35 MPH limit traveling east on the exact same stretch of road. It is both confusing and unenforceable.

Daid L Smith 538 SAZMON FALLS RD
Many telm 282 Salmon Folls
Bype dem 54 Jay Way
Why Coon 203 EASON AUG
THE SUBSIN APPRIES 4 RETTS PA ROCHESTER NH
HATTER APPRILE (29 STAMON THUS PED
James // LHARPY MENING 3 CACE DR
Monique wal molique wood 5 watercress Dr. Rochester, NA 03868
Harry Skenenwood Herry 10 and 5 Watercress Dr. Rochester, NH 08868
Suta We tuner JANITA TIENER 103 CACTE DR
Sandra Thomas 5335 almon FALLS Rd Rochester N.H 03868
Clary Cooper " " "

Martin Hamel, 584 Salmon Falls Rd Rochester N.H.
Claire Hamel 584 Salmon Falls Bd Rochester NH
Juncla Holmes 4 Gros Rd. Kochester not
Bloker Kerjon 391 SAINCH [-all Musiculation 71.4.
Jenette Buch 344 Rollins Rd Rollins And DH
(Danielle Cormier 580 Salmon Falls Rd Romester Ntt.
Condy tappy 580 Salmon Fills and Pochody NH
Bruss Mandenilla 877 " " "
hour Prome 5/3 Salman Fall's Rd
Ulmand Sanderson 563 Salar on Fills Rel
1430 - 557 Salmon Falls Ra
Die meto Color fel at l
- Hartoting & Comes Ral Rockeller
No William Drown 18 Seasons Lang Rechester
And William Drown 18 Seasons Lang Rechester
Francisco Lugo 75594 Salvan falls
Joseph Gulfy 10 000 0x ROMID
Jacksenton Gugan Bickford 10 ok OK Rd Delinan Falls Delinan Falls Butter Delinan Falls Rd D
Joe Predeford Gugan Erck Food 10 old OK Rd Salmon Falls Dynam Kanng Dryman Kundrup 570 Salmon Falls Rd Stya Kindrup Stack Kondrup 570 Salmon Falls Rd Dynam Harris Rd Dynam Falls Rd Dyn
Jacksenton Gugan Bickford 10 ok OK Rd Delinan Falls Delinan Falls Butter Delinan Falls Rd D
Joe Predeford Gugan Erck Food 10 old OK Rd Salmon Falls Dynam Kanng Dryman Kundrup 570 Salmon Falls Rd Stya Kindrup Stack Kondrup 570 Salmon Falls Rd Dynam Harris Rd Dynam Falls Rd Dyn

Raised Speed Table Policy

Preamble

This policy is designed to establish procedures and guidelines for the implementation of raised speed tables within the city of Rochester. Requests for raised speed tables must meet all criteria detailed within this policy *and* approved by the city council before implementation. Please note: while a request might meet the criteria within this policy – it is to be used only as an initial guideline. As such, each individual request will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Raised Speed Table Guidelines

- 1. Speed limit on street must be 25 MPH or below, or, location be within a school zone
- 2. Street must not be a dead-end (Excluding school zones)
- 3. Street or street segments must be no shorter than 500 feet in length (segment defined as an area of the same street between consecutive intersections. (*Excluding school zones*)
- 4. Speed table must be no closer than 200 feet from a stop sign or intersection
- 5. Speed table must be no closer than 75 feet from a residential or commercial driveway (Excluding school zones)
- 6. AADT must be above 2000 (If data available) (Excluding school zones)
 https://nhdot.public.ms2soft.com/tcds/tsearch.asp?loc=Nhdot&mod=TCDS
- 7. Speed Table must include a crosswalk (at an existing crosswalk or the ability to add a crosswalk with no alterations to the surrounding sidewalk infrastructure)
- 8. Speed Tables are not permitted in the following zoning districts (Excluding school zones):
 - a. Agricultural
 - b. Highway commercial
 - c. General industrial
 - d. Airport Special
 - e. Recycling industrial
 - f. Office commercial
- 9. Public hearing must be scheduled if 1-8 are met, prior to a formal council vote
- 10. IF APPROVED: speed table design and implementation must comply with all state and federal regulations (DPW issue)

I would like to see this more than a policy or guideline. I believe this is best suited as an ordinance which includes the above guidelines – so that it MUST be followed.

I believe the ordinance should be structured the following:

- 1. Application received by public safety or brought up by committee
- Automatic trigger to a public hearing if all guidelines are met (next available)
- 3. Automatic refer back to public safety after public hearing
- 4. Motion at committee to send or not
- 5. Formal vote by council
 - *Ordinance must include something similar to preamble to specify decision is not solely based on criteria.

Salmon Falls Road

Laura McDormand

From:

Peter Lachapelle

Sent:

Wednesday, March 29, 2023 12:39 PM

To:

Laura McDormand

Subject:

Fw: [rochesternh] Deer crossing sign

manufacture a Candho spital org

Hi Laura,

Pete

Can you add "Deer Crossing Sign" request on Salmon Falls Road and Highland for our next public safety meeting? You can attach the email below in the packet. Thanks

From: Blaine Cox <blaine.cox@rochesternh.gov> Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 8:46 AM

To: Donald Hamann <donald.hamann@rochesternh.gov>; Peter Lachapelle <peter.lachapelle@rochesternh.gov> Cc: amanda.myers@wdhospital.org <amanda.myers@wdhospital.org>; Peter Nourse <peter.nourse@rochesternh.gov>

Subject: RE: [rochesternh] Deer crossing sign (Sent by Amanda Myers, amanda.myers@wdhospital.org)

Public Works Committee Chair Hamann and Public Safety Committee Chair Lachapelle -

Please read the email below from Amanda Myers on Salmon Falls Road. Is this an item that either the PWC or PSC would address?

Blaine

Blaine M. Cox City Manager Rochester, N.H.

Email: blaine.cox@rochesternh.gov

Telephone: 603-335-7506

From: Contact form at rochesternh <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 8:26 AM
To: Blaine Cox <blaine.cox@rochesternh.gov>

Subject: [rochesternh] Deer crossing sign (Sent by Amanda Myers, amanda.myers@wdhospital.org) Amanda Myers (amanda.myers@wdhospital.org) has sent you a message via your contact form (https://www.rochesternh.gov/users/bcox/contact) at rochesternh.

Good morning,

I am writing this morning to inquire how I would start the process to request a deer crossing sign on my road. I live on Salman Falls Road, just before the intersection of Salmon Falls and Highland. Every evening I sit on my font porch and between 6-8 pm I can count anywhere from 2-5 deer that cross the road. They come from the cul-de-sac on Kingsale Road and cross over into the yard across the street which is approx. in the number 368-370 vicinity of Salman Falls. This so happens to be a spot where the road curves and you have a fairly large blind spot. While sitting on my porch I have seen multiple cars have to brake quickly, and a lot of close calls. I would like to request a deer crossing sign be put on on either side of the road in this area. I am just in need of a direction to start. I'm not sure if this would be done through our local municipality, or if I would need to contact the Department of transportation.

I thank you greatly for your time, and look forward to hearing back from you.

Gear Road

Laura McDormand

From:

Ronda Boisvert

Sent:

Thursday, March 30, 2023 8:35 AM

To:

Laura McDormand

Subject:

Street Light Request 53 Gear Road

Hi Laura,

Mr. Ruzzi called about getting a street light installed at 53 Gear Road. He stated it is very dark in that area. He can be reached at 53 Gear Road.

Thank you, Ronda Boisvert Administrative Assistant II City of Rochester DPW 603-335-7563 ronda.boisvert@rochesternh.gov

*** Please note that my email address has changed to ronda.boisvert@rochesternh.gov (it used to end with .net). Please update your address book. Mail to rochesternh.net will continue to work for a while but will eventually be disabled.

Email sent to and from this City of Rochester email address is subject to NH RSA 91-A (the NH Public Records Law) and may, subject to certain exemptions, be subject to disclosure to third parties. This email message and any attachments may contain information that is confidential and/or legally privileged in accordance with applicable laws or regulations. It is intended only for the use of the person and/or entity identified as recipient(s) in the message. If you are not an intended recipient of this message, please notify the sender immediately and delete the material. Do not print, deliver, distribute or copy this message, and do not disclose its contents or take any action in reliance on the information it contains unless authorized to do so. Thank you.

Autumn Street

Laura McDormand

From:

Peter Lachapelle

Sent:

Thursday, March 30, 2023 2:27 PM

To:

aplantate pr

Cc:

Donald Hamann; Laura McDormand

Subject:

Re: [rochesternh] Autumn Street, traffic, trucks, sidewalks (Sent by Tom Plourde,

tplourde31@gmail.com)

Hi Tom,

Sidewalks on Autumn Street would be a capital project and need to be included in the City's budget and discussed at Public Works Committee. I've copied Don Hamann, who is the chair of that committee, he might be able to shed more light on the subject.

As for No Thru Truck signs and/or other measures, the public safety committee can address that and will at our next meeting. The meeting is scheduled for Wednesday April 19th at 6 pm at city hall council chambers.

Laura, can you add this to the agenda?

Thanks,

Pete

From: Contact form at rochesternh <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2023 10:52 AM

To: Peter Lachapelle <peter.lachapelle@rochesternh.gov>

Subject: [rochesternh] Autumn Street, traffic, trucks, sidewalks (Sent by Tom Plourde, tplourde31@gmail.com)

Caution: External email.

Hello plachapelle,

Tom Plour has sent you a message via your contact form

(https://www.rochesternh.gov/users/plachapelle/contact) at rochesternh.

If you don't want to receive such e-mails, you can change your settings at

https://www.rochesternh.gov/user/156/edit.

Message:

It has been well over a year since I sent you a letter/ email and met with the public safety committee and discussed safety, traffic, speeds, trucks, and sidewalks on Autumn Street in East Rochester. Since we last met things have only gotten worse, more traffic, higher speeds, more and larger trucks, and no mention of sidewalks, which you said will be worked on.

I would like to attend a meeting and propose new speed checks and limits, traffic volume, change signage from "no trucks over 28,000 GVW" to NO THRU TRUCKS like the signs on Flat Rock Bridge Road. Please tell me how a small portion of Salmon Falls Road manages to get a posted speed limit of 25 MPH with a flashing speed sign, yet we were told no way.

I fear for the lives of my grand children, who live across the street and all the people and pets whenever they try and walk or cross the street that we pay taxes for and get nothing in return.

I have been patiently waiting over the past 30+ that my family has lived on Autumn Street but now I am

Magic Avenue

Laura McDormand

From:

Ronda Boisvert

Sent:

Friday, April 7, 2023 1:05 PM

To:

Laura McDormand

Subject:

6 Magic Ave

Hi Laura,

Vicky Smith called regarding traffic speeding on Magic Ave. The traffic is also not stopping for people at the crosswalk, from 6 Magic Ave to 7 Magic Ave (parking lot).

Thank you,
Ronda Boisvert
Administrative Assistant II
City of Rochester DPW
603-335-7563
ronda.boisvert@rochesternh.gov

*** Please note that my email address has changed to ronda.boisvert@rochesternh.gov (it used to end with .net). Please update your address book. Mail to rochesternh.net will continue to work for a while but will eventually be disabled.

Email sent to and from this City of Rochester email address is subject to NH RSA 91-A (the NH Public Records Law) and may, subject to certain exemptions, be subject to disclosure to third parties. This email message and any attachments may contain information that is confidential and/or legally privileged in accordance with applicable laws or regulations. It is intended only for the use of the person and/or entity identified as recipient(s) in the message. If you are not an intended recipient of this message, please notify the sender immediately and delete the material. Do not print, deliver, distribute or copy this message, and do not disclose its contents or take any action in reliance on the information it contains unless authorized to do so. Thank you.

Laura McDormand

Crowhill Road

From:

Ronda Boisvert

Sent:

Monday, April 10, 2023 3:56 PM

To:

Laura McDormand

Cc:

keelysha12@gmail.com

Subject:

Dead End or No Outlet Sign

Hi Laura,

Mrs. Szalajeski from 108 Crow Hill Road called requesting a dead end or no outlet sign be put on Crow Hill Road. She stated that there are at least 10 cars a week going down the road and having turn around. She said they are speeding as well. She can be reached at 905 208-4

Thank you, Ronda Boisvert Administrative Assistant II City of Rochester DPW 603-335-7563 ronda.boisvert@rochesternh.gov

*** Please note that my email address has changed to ronda.boisvert@rochesternh.gov (it used to end with .net). Please update your address book. Mail to rochesternh.net will continue to work for a while but will eventually be disabled.

Email sent to and from this City of Rochester email address is subject to NH RSA 91-A (the NH Public Records Law) and may, subject to certain exemptions, be subject to disclosure to third parties. This email message and any attachments may contain information that is confidential and/or legally privileged in accordance with applicable laws or regulations. It is intended only for the use of the person and/or entity identified as recipient(s) in the message. If you are not an intended recipient of this message, please notify the sender immediately and delete the material. Do not print, deliver, distribute or copy this message, and do not disclose its contents or take any action in reliance on the information it contains unless authorized to do so. Thank you.

April 10, 2023

City Manager Cox Rochester City Hall 31 Wakefield St Rochester, NH 03867 Receive Blam Cop

Dear City Manager Cox,

My name is Gary Poulin and I reside at 2 Deerfield Ct, Rochester, NH 03868. My wife and I are having an issue with vehicles speeding up and down Norway Plains Road in excess of 50 miles per hour. I have requested the Speed Trailer from the Rochester Police to be placed on Norway Plains Rd as well as patrol cars to run radar on the street to help make our neighborhood a safer place. I am requesting that speed limit signs be placed on Norway Plains Rd please.

Respectfully,

Gary Poulin
2 Deerfield Ct

Rochester, NH 03868