

Unapproved Highway Safety Committee Meeting Minutes –6-17-2015

In attendance were Mr. Mike Dipietro, chairman, Mr. Rick Eaton, Selectman, Lt. Ray Pelton, Auburn Police representative, Mr. Mike Dross, road agent, Mr. Dan Carpenter and Mrs. Eva Komaradais, Auburn residents. Mrs. Helen Hiltz was taking minutes.

Police Report:

Lt. Ray Pelton reported that there were 7 accidents. There have been 10 grant patrols which have resulted in 4 arrests and 10 tickets.

Lt. Pelton informed the Committee that the new hands free cell phone law will take effect on July 1st. The police department has had cards made out detailing the new law. The police officers will be handing out the cards as a “warning” that the new law is in effect. If caught again, motorists will be fined \$100.00 for the first violation and \$200.00 for the second violation. Infractions will require a court appearance.

The radar trailer has been out on Wilson Crossing Road and Steam Mill Road. Once Chester Road paving is complete, the speed trailer will be set up there.

Road Agent Report:

Mr. Mike Dross reported that work was progressing well on Chester Turnpike. The road crews are hitting extremely large rocks now. They have completed approximately 1300’ of the approximate 1800’ project.

Road agent Dross reported that Dearborn Road will be the project taken on after Chester Turnpike is completed.

Mr. Dross reported that striping has been completed throughout town (with the exception of the newly paved areas). Mr. Dipietro noted what a good job was done by the striping crew this year.

Pavers are on Margate and Lantern Lane. They will return to do the paving on Eaton Hill Road Extension once school is out.

Road agent, Mike Dross, has received a quote for a gate for Dartmouth Ave.

Mr. Dross stated that 3,300 tons. of salt were used last year.

Mr. Dan Carpenter asked Mr. Dross if the road crews could keep an eye open for the historic mileage marker when they start work on Dearborn Road. The marker has been broken off and is only 4’ instead of the original 6’ height. It would be appreciated if the height of the historic marker could be restored during the excavation of the four corner area.

Southern NH Planning report:

Southern NH Planning has sent the results of the traffic counts that they have done for 2105. The results can be found and reviewed on the new Auburn website – Highway Safety Page. The Committee reviewed the results. The biggest surprise was the increased traffic (5,000) on Wilson Crossing Road.

Hooksett Road Bus stop update:

Mrs. Hiltz read the following update from Karen Lessard:

"Here is the response from the gentlemen at DOE that came out to look at the current stop and the proposed stop. He states that he would be willing to meet with the highway department as well as the police department to discuss further as we all want our students to be safe. If the committee would like to take him up on that please let me know a couple of dates that would work and I will contact Tim to see if he is available. I would also plan on attending and would send an invitation to the Terminal Manager at the bus company.

Karen Lessard

Business Administrator

SAU #15

90 Farmer Road

Hooksett NH 03106

603-622-3731 x 11

From: Carney, Timothy [mailto:Timothy.Carney@doe.nh.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2015 1:28 PM

To: Karen Lessard

Subject: RE: Emailing: ASD-File-EEA.Student-Trans.-Services

Karen,

I visited the site again on June 9th to take some measurements and observe the traffic and 8:15 bus stop. Unfortunately, the bus did not stop on this day.

In general, the traffic was moderate and consistent. Traffic also appeared to be going significantly faster than the posted 35 mph speed limit. Based on my observations, it does not appear that a school bus could stop at the top of the hill and be seen from both directions with adequate stopping distance from each direction. This is due to the shape of the hill crest; it is not a distinct single crest but rather a series of crests and flats with rather steep approaches.

Although I understand that the back-up of cars behind the bus may limit stopping distance for cars traveling northbound at the existing location, I think placing the stop at the top of the hill may result in both lanes having limited stopping distance thus doubling the risk.

I measured the distance from the top of the hill going northbound to the bus stop location from where I could see the bus (as if I were a car driver) to be approximately 475 feet. Based on calculations from several web sites the stopping distance for a car going the posted speed limit of 35 mph would range from 109 feet to 192 feet when accounting for road conditions, 2 seconds reaction time and the downhill slope. In the worst case, this leaves 283 feet (475'-192') of car back-up buffer. Using 20 feet to represent a typical car, 13-18 foot long vehicle with some space between, results in up to 14 cars fitting behind the bus. Obviously, trucks and other longer vehicles would reduce this number. I would be surprised if 14 cars would back up behind the bus, however, if more than 14 do then there is a legitimate concern.

Overall it is a tricky location. I imagine the homes at the top of the hill have had close calls just getting out of their driveways. It may be helpful to install traffic signs/devices to alert drivers that the bus may be stopped over the hill and to lower/enforce the speed limit in the area during drop off and pick up times.

At this point I really think it would be helpful to meet with representatives of the Auburn Highway Safety Committee and perhaps the local police so we can discuss the issue at the site.

Regards,

Tim “

The Committee discussed further action that they would like to take. They appreciated all of the effort that was put forth to investigate this possible safety issue. Mrs. Komaradai asked if the same children (bus stops) would be needed next year. She also noted that as a former bus driver herself she did not see a perfect solution to the issue. She did have a couple of recommendations that she feels should be discussed. The Committee decided that they would invite Ms. Karen Lessard and Mr. Tim Carney to attend the next Highway Safety meeting which will be on September 16th at 7:00 PM. By that time we should know if a bus stop will still be required in that area. Mrs. Hiltz will invite Ms. Lessard and Mr. Tim Carney to that meeting.

Update – Four Corners in center of town:

NHDOT has completed paving on Rte. 121. They erected the small traffic island that had been discussed. The new traffic pattern will take residents a period of time to get in used to but the Committee feels confident that this will help with the traffic pattern in the area. The Committee has asked that a letter of ‘Thanks’ be written to the NHDOT for completing this task.

Summer Recess:

Mr. Mike Dross made a motion for the Highway Safety Committee to recess for the July/August timeframe. Mrs. Eva Komaradai 2nd the motion. All in favor. The next Highway Safety Meeting will be held on September 16th. In case of any emergency situation, Mrs. Hiltz will call an emergency meeting.

Mr. Dan Carpenter made a motion to accept the May meeting minutes. Mrs. Eva Komaradais 2nd the motion. All in favor.

Mr. Dan Carpenter made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50. Mrs. Eva Komaradais. 2nd the motion. All in favor.

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