

**Town of Auburn
Highway Safety Committee
May 18, 2016**

Committee Members Present: Mike Dipietro, Chairman; Lt. Ray Pelton and Dan Carpenter

Also Present: Town Administrator William Herman

Mr. Dipietro called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

New Business:

Lt. Pelton reported on concerns raised at the May meeting of the Police Commission concerning the area around 278 Chester Road where a number of serious and fatal motor vehicle accidents have occurred. Residents in that immediate area believe the posted 40 MPH speed limit is too fast for the conditions on the ground and should be lowered. Accident statistics compiled by the Auburn Police Department indicate six serious accidents in this immediate area between 2010 and 2016, including one fatality and one motorcycle accident resulting in serious injuries. Committee members felt solutions could include relocating the big yellow speed warning sign that is somewhat hidden behind a tree so it was more visible; the potential placement of chevron signs to highlight the curves in the road; and potentially reducing the speed limit in the immediate area. Lt. Pelton indicated the Police Department would focus some of their upcoming DWI Patrols as possible in this area.

Mr. Dipietro would like to have a letter sent from the Town to NH Department of Transportation requesting that they look at this area of Chester Road (NH Route 121) and attempt to address the concerns.

Mr. Herman provided the Committee members with traffic count reports from the Southern NH Planning Commission for traffic counts performs on Hills Road in mid-April. He noted they placed a counter at the area of Hills Road and Hooksett Road to gauge total road usage, in addition to a counter at the Auburn / Hooksett town line to gauge the volume of traffic coming into Auburn from Hooksett. The traffic counts showed an average of 507 vehicles per day on Hills Road, with an average of 207 vehicles per day crossing the Auburn / Hooksett town line.

Mr. Herman indicated a few residents in the area indicate some of the traffic coming from Hooksett comes into Auburn at higher rates of speed. Lt. Pelton indicated the Police Department would be using the speed trailer on Hills Road again this year, and could place it near the town line as part of their efforts.

Police Report:

Lt. Pelton reported there had been 12 motor vehicle accidents in the past month, three of which involved motorcycles. Partly in recognition of these statistics, the Department has performed speed patrols on Hooksett Road, Wilsons Crossing Road and Eaton Hill Road, and will perform others in the future as appropriate.

Lt. Pelton also noted later in the month of May, the Auburn Police Department would be performing Highway Safety patrols in concert with other police departments in the region under a grant funded program administered through the Highway Safety Agency of the NH Department of Safety. Lt. Pelton also indicated there would be a similar activity later in the year on the Route 101 Corridor, also funded by the Highway Safety Agency.

Road Agent Report:

Mr. Herman indicated he was aware the main road work the Road Agent would be focusing on this year is the reconstruction of the remainder of Dearborn Road. The work area has been staked out and detailed in anticipation of the work.

He also indicated the Road Agent this year would also be replacing an existing culvert on Old Candia Road near the intersection with Tower Hill Road with a larger box-culvert style culvert. He indicated the project is funded with a Hazard Mitigation Grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). If there is time left in the construction season, the Road Agent would likely begin work on reconstructing Nutt Road.

Mr. Carpenter noted there was a large tree at the intersection of Lovers Lane and Route 121 that creates a blind spot for the traffic on Lovers Lane that he suggested the Town should remove this year due to safety concerns.

Mr. Dipietro noted a Pricilla Lane street sign is missing from the road closest to the Gemini Electric property.

Other Business:

Lt. Pelton noted there had previously been discussion of placing No Parking Signs on Rockingham Road in the immediate vicinity of the Auburn Pitts. He recommended the signs be placed on the opposite side of the road from The Pitts so vehicles are parked and people need to cross the road. He also suggested the signs only need to be generally the width of The Pitt's frontage on Rockingham Road. The Committee members were in agreement with this approach.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Lt. Pelton moved to approve the minutes of the March 16, 2016 meeting as presented. Seconded by Mr. Carpenter. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn:

Lt. Pelton moved to adjourn; Mr. Dipietro seconded the motion. All were in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 8:01 PM.