

**Town of Auburn
Highway Safety Committee
June 22, 2016**

Committee Members Present: Mike Dipietro, Chairman; Lt. Ray Pelton, Dan Carpenter, Eva Komaridis and Rick Eaton, Selectman.

Also Present: Town Administrator William Herman

Mr. Dipietro called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Old Business:

Mike Dipietro reported it was discussed at a recent Selectmen's meeting that the Town would be applying for funding to establish a bike path in the center of Town, which had been a subject of discussion at a past Highway Safety Committee meeting. Bill Herman indicated the Board of Selectmen had approved applying for grant funds through the NH Department of Transportation that could cover 80% of the costs of a bike path from the intersection of Eaton Hill Road & Hooksett Road to Shore Drive. The grant application will need to be submitted by September and the project cost is estimated to be \$529,000, with the grant covering 80% of the costs and the Town responsible for 20% of the cost. He thought grants would be awarded in the November / December time frame and, if successful, the Town would have a warrant article to raise the Town's share of funds in March 2017. He felt if approved, the design and permitting of the project would occur in 2017 and construction would take place in 2018. Rick Eaton noted the Board does not want an extension of Route 121 to provide for a bike path, but are looking to have the path separated from the road for the safety of the bicyclists and the motoring traffic.

Mr. Dipietro noted the Committee had discussed at their May meeting conditions near 278 Chester Road that appear to be a contributing factor towards several serious motor vehicle accidents including two fatalities. This had been a subject that was also raised at the May meeting of the Police Commission. Mr. Herman reported a verbal connection had been made with NHDOT and that a letter is being prepared for the Board of Selectmen to formally ask NHDOT to review the area and make safe adjustments as appropriate, including potentially lowering the speed limit.

Police Report:

Lt. Pelton reported the department had placed the mobile radar trailer on Hills Road for several days this month and found traffic counts were very similar to counts also done

by the Southern NH Planning Commission a month ago. He also noted the average speed of travelers was 35 MPH, and that the speed at the 85th percentile was 38 MPH.

Lt. Pelton reported there had been nine motor vehicle accidents in the past month, three of which were on Chester Road.

Lt. Pelton also noted the Police Department had performed Highway Safety patrols under a grant funded program administered through the Highway Safety Agency of the NH Department of Safety. These patrols had largely been on Route 101, By-Pass 28, Hooksett Road and Old Candia Road. He also noted the department has gotten the mobile radar trailer out to locations on Wilsons Crossing Road, Hooksett Road and Hills Road.

Road Agent Report:

Dan Carpenter noted the Road Agent was making progress on the reconstruction of Dearborn Road.

Mr. Dipietro noted the Highway Safety Committee had previously discussed the placement of "No Parking" signs on Rockingham Road in the area of the Auburn Pitts in a similar fashion as the Town addressed parking along Eaton Hill Road. Mr. Herman reported he would be sure to place it on the agenda of the next Selectmen's meeting.

New Business:

Dan Carpenter noted the school bus lane adjacent to Eaton Hill Road for the pick-up area at the Auburn Village School. He thought a white line should be painted on the road to separate the bus lane from the road travel area for safety purposes. The Committee agreed that would be a good idea and thought it could be incorporated in the regular line striping work performed by the Town annually.

Dan Carpenter also noted the five corner area with concern for school buses that come from Chester Turnpike and make a left-hand turn onto Dearborn Road. He indicated the turning radius of a school bus in that tight area wreaks havoc with the road side, in addition to exposing the bus to a potentially accident as it takes up the entire corner. He felt it was an accident waiting to happen. There was general discussion concerning this area and the overall direction of bus routes. Lt. Pelton agreed to contact the bus company to review this concern. Eva Komaridis thought it would be good timing as the company would be looking at the bus routes for the next school year at this time.

Mr. Dipietro noted the Committee usually takes a recess from meeting in July and August. He asked if there was any business that would prevent that. There was none indicated.

Dan Carpenter moved to not hold Highway Safety Committee meetings in July and August, and resume the monthly schedule in September. Seconded by Lt. Pelton. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion carried.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Lt. Pelton moved to approve the minutes of the May 18, 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; Mrs. Komaridis seconded the motion. All were in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM.