

**Town of Auburn
Highway Safety Committee
January 18, 2017**

Committee Members Present: Mike Dipietro, Chairman; Sgt. Kevin Cashman, Selectman Rick Eaton and Dan Carpenter.

Also Present: Fire Chief Ed Gannon and Town Administrator William Herman

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

Review Annual Report:

Mr. Dipietro noted the Committee had a draft report for the Committee's activities in 2016 for submission for the annual Town Report. He felt it was a good presentation for the prior year's activities, but was looking for the Committee's approval. The Committee members reviewed the draft report.

Dan Carpenter moved to approve the report as written. Seconded by Rick Eaton. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion carried unanimously.

Police Report:

Sgt. Cashman reported there had been 15 motor vehicle accidents since the last meeting of the Highway Safety Committee in December, largely due to snow storm events. He also reported there had been 221 overall motor vehicle stops since the last meeting, 22 of which lead to various citations including one DWI and two drug related violations.

Road Agent Report:

Mr. Carpenter commented the stripping by the Auburn Village School on Eaton Hill Road has made a significant improvement to the traffic flow in the area. Mr. Eaton noted there had been some discussion of having hash markings added for the drop-off parking area for further highlight. He thought that might be added in the spring.

Sgt. Cashman reported there has been a few occasions, particularly following snow events, where traffic and parking by the Auburn Village School was a problem, but he felt it was due to driver inattention. He also noted that a 90-minute or two-hour delay in the start of school falls outside the posted times for one-way traffic, which can add additional confusion.

Mr. Dipietro noted the Board of Selectmen had recently been discussing issues concerning maintenance of drainage on Hooksett Road adjacent to the Exit 2 interchange, and asked if there was anything new on the issue. Rick Eaton reported there had been a meeting arranged by Senator Carson for NHDOT and the Town this week that was productive. Nothing definitive has been determined, but it is likely the Town and NHDOT will inspect the area in the spring to determine the condition of the infrastructure and then better define who has responsibility for what. He also indicated it is possible the Town and State would swap responsibilities for certain sections of Hooksett Road as a result, but those are decisions yet to be made. He indicated the Selectmen would be discussing this at their meeting on January 23rd.

New Business:

Fire Chief Ed Gannon reported his concern for a significant life safety hazard that took place on the evening of January 14th with the “Burning of the Greens” event at the Auburn Pitts. The event attracted a huge crowd with vehicles parked on both sides of Rockingham Road that prevented the ability of getting fire apparatus or an ambulance in the area if they were needed. Beyond the capacity issues at the Pitts, the flames from the burning of the trees were as high as 30-feet in the area, in addition to a secondary grill being used on the wooden deck attached to the building. The Fire Chief’s concern is not only the public safety concerns for the gathering at the Pitts itself, but the residents in the immediate area of Rockingham Road, Champagne Lane and Shea’s Drive which are also affected.

The Chief indicated the Fire Department will be meeting with the owner of the Auburn Pitts to ensure fire standards and local ordinances for Fire Watches are met in the future. But to address the issue of vehicles on Rockingham Road, he felt it would be appropriate to post the road for no parking on the north side of Rockingham Road between Champagne Lane and Shea’s Drive.

Sergeant Cashman noted the parking concerning on Rockingham Road is a fairly regular issue, particularly on Thursday and Saturday evenings. On this particular evening cited by the Fire Chief, he had initially responded to the area based on a call for shots fired. Without an ordinance or posting of the road, there is little the Police Department could do.

Mr. Dipietro and Mr. Carpenter noted the Committee has discussed this on several times in the past and had recommended the Board of Selectmen consider posting one side of the road for no parking. Mr. Eaton and Mr. Herman acknowledged that, but discussion at the Board of Selectmen meeting ultimately lead to no postings being made.

After more discussion, it was felt the Committee should again provide the Board of Selectmen with a recommendation to post Rockingham Road for no parking on the north side from a public safety standpoint.

Dan Carpenter moved to recommend Rockingham Road be posted for no parking on the north side between Champagne Lane and Shea's Drive similar to what is in place for Eaton Hill Road adjacent to the Auburn Village School. Seconded by Rick Eaton. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion carried unanimously.

Dan Carpenter noted the Town roads in general have held up well this year and there have not been many frost heaves.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Dan Carpenter moved to approve the minutes of the November 16th, 2016 and December 21st, 2016 meetings as presented. Seconded by Kevin Cashman. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn:

Dan Carpenter moved to adjourn; Kevin Cashman seconded the motion. All were in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.