

**Town of Auburn
Highway Safety Committee
September 19, 2018**

Committee Members Present: Mike DiPietro, Chairman; Officer Muzafer Aku, Selectman Richard Eaton, Road Agent Mike Dross and Dan Carpenter

Also Present: Ryan Maher, Kristen Maher and Michelle Maher, Kerri Burnet and Lynne Burnet and Nancy Hoijer, Recording Secretary

Call to Order

Mr. DiPietro called the meeting to order at 6:58 PM.

Appointment with the Committee

- **Ryan Maher – Request for evaluation of Lovers Lane for bus stop at Juniper Circle**

Mr. Maher advised he had serious concerns with what he considers an inadequate bus route on Lovers Lane and Bunker Hill Road. Mr. Maher has attempted to contact the bus company and school district directly to address those concerns and it was suggested he ask for some assistance from the Highway Safety Committee. The bus company is providing the service, the School District is paying for the service and its insurance, and the taxpayers are paying the Town.

Mr. Maher advised Juniper Circle is a new road which has yet to be accepted and therefore does not have its own bus stop.

Ms. Burnett added her five-year old son has to walk a considerable distance on a highly trafficked road known for lack of visibility with no site line, speeding and lack of sidewalks and he is the only child picked up at that stop. When walking this route herself, she made it approximately four feet before almost being struck by a speeding car. The parents who were present reported the route is so unsafe they are forced to drive their children to school until something is done. Officer Aku and Mr. Eaton expressed concerns about this adding to congestion. Mrs. Maher asked if a patrol could supervise the stop until this is addressed to at least slow down the speeding vehicles of which she reported there are many. Officer Aku advised with only one officer on duty that time of the morning, if a call came in the officer would be required to leave.

Ms. Burnett and Mrs. Maher both reported some buses were overcrowded to the point children were sitting three to a seat, which in itself is a violation of regulations, and some are sitting on the floor. Other buses have only a dozen or so students on them.

The Committee agreed Ms. Burnet's proposal that these two buses could drive a parallel route to carry an equal number of children and meet in the middle at a safer stop for the children, was a reasonable one.

Road Agent Dross advised they would make a recommendation to the school district and bus company to evaluate this route, because that is what the Highway Safety Committee is here for, but advised as Mr. DiPietro had already stated, neither they nor the Select Board have the authority to micro-manage the bus company and determine its routes.

Mr. Dross motioned to draft a letter to the bus company and police department that due to existing conditions an evaluation of this route must be done as soon as possible. Mr. Eaton seconded the motion, with all in favor, so moved.

Police Report

Mr. DiPietro advised the Select Board was working on the Warrant Article for the Police Detail fund and reviewing the Cellphone Scoff Law Report.

Officer Aku advised t there were 10 accidents, 157 motor vehicle stops and 1 burglary last month.

Road Agent Report

Mr. Dross reported they were working on Acorn and Walnut roads. The culvert was in bad shape and the driveways will be too far from the road surface as the Town will be reducing the travel surface from 31-feet to 24-feet. Mr. Dross reported he was disappointed to find that most of the road base was gravel and no fill.

Mr. Dross reported a stop sign had been hit by a car and repaired at Wilson Crossing and Rattlesnake Road.

Mr. Dross reported there were minor washouts in the heavy rain event following the Hurricane Florence that made landfall in the Carolinas this week. Mr. DiPietro reported five-inches of rain measured that morning.

Mr. Carpenter reported the Dam was running full this morning. Mr. Dross added the beavers were a problem again and the trapper was on vacation in Alaska.

New Business

- **Rockingham Road Parking Concerns**

Mr. DiPietro stated he rode by and observed the driveways which were reportedly being blocked. Officer Aku advised there were no complaints brought to the attention of the Police Department and if driveways are blocked, residents should either be calling the police or having the cars towed which they have a legal right to do. Mr. DiPietro advised it sounds like someone got a ticket and the word spread effectively and people are doing a better job with parking and the Pitts are taking responsibility to minimize the violations.

- **Manchester Road Trail Crossing Concerns**

The Committee agreed the NH Department of Transportation (NHDOT) should be contacted to request signage and a crossing at the intersection of the trail. There have been some close calls at Kimballs Point. Mr. Eaton advised the NHDOT could perhaps do a crossing such as they had at Poor Boys.

- **Southern NH Planning Commission Road Safety Programs**

Mr. DiPietro advised he had received a letter from the Southern NH Planning Commission Road Safety Program which identified some areas of concern by accident history and asked the Committee to identify any additional areas of concern they had.

Mr. Carpenter reviewed the two maps that accompanied the letter and remarked they had done an excellent job of identifying and pointing out concerns to the Committee already. Mr. DiPietro asked if the Committee had any other recommendations. Mr. DiPietro advised the letter was looking for high volume crashes, pedestrian incidents, school crossings and dangerous areas. Mr. DiPietro advised the letter already addressed the one in the Village. Mr. Carpenter added the two on 28 By-Pass. Mr. Dross added Beaver Brook and Wilson Crossing where the gas station is, especially at night. Mr. Carpenter added Massabesic /NH Route 121 where hikers are parking in the road. Mr. DiPietro added the blind spot at Depot Road at left turn ins. Mr. Dross advised Stantec had done an evaluation which hasn't been pursued. Mr. Carpenter added the bushes and contractor signs which should be taken down at Wilson's Crossing. Officer Aku added where the accident happened months ago, (t-boned) and trimming trees back. Mr. Carpenter added they got those Maple trees off Lovers Lane.

Review June 20th Meeting Minutes

Mr. Carpenter motioned to approve the minutes of the June 20, 2018 meeting, as written. Seconded by Mr. Dross. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn

Mr. Dross motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 pm. Mr. Eaton seconded the motion, with all in favor, so moved.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Hoijer
Recording Secretary