

**Town of Auburn
Highway Safety Committee
September 21, 2016**

Committee Members Present: Mike Dipietro, Chairman; Lt. Ray Pelton, Dan Carpenter, Road Agent Mike Dross 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 news has been published that the Town has submitted an application for funding to establish a multi-use path in the center of Town, which had been a subject of discussion at past Highway Safety Committee meetings. Bill Herman indicated there were 54 communities applying for funding and likely 10 to 12 will be selected. Announcements will be made by the NH Department of Transportation in December.

The school bus lane adjacent to Eaton Hill Road for the pick-up area at the Auburn Village School was reviewed. Mr. Dipietro asked the Road Agent if it might be possible to add a white line on the road to separate the bus lane from the road travel area for safety purposes. It was also thought it would help motorists to avoid hitting the catch basin in the immediate area. The Road Agent suggested instead painting the center line and fog lines on the road, and perhaps adding diagonal hash lines for the bus and pick-up area to clearly mark that area. The Committee agreed that would be a good approach.

Lt. Pelton reported he had been in contact with the school bus company to outline the concerns for the five corner intersection of Dearborn Road, Chester Turnpike and Coleman Road, and specifically school buses that come from Chester Turnpike and make a left-hand turn onto Dearborn Road. He indicated the company was going to take a look at that route and that particular intersection.

Bill Herman reported the Board of Selectmen has sent a letter to NH Department of Transportation noting the 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 has been discussed by the Police Commission and the Highway Safety Committee. NHDOT has not yet replied to the Selectmen's request to review the section of road. The Road Agent suggests at a minimum, placing chevron signs in the area of the curve would be a significant help.

Police Report:

Lt. Pelton reported there had been eight motor vehicle accidents since the last meeting of the Highway Safety Committee in June.

The Police Department has received approval from the Department of Safety for four highway safety grants for the coming year. They include funding for DWI patrols, Distracted Driver patrols and Sustained Traffic Enforcement Patrols (STEP). The fourth grant is for the replacement of the department's radar display trailer. The trailer unit can be used as just a message board during various incidents or road closures, and also provides full service and data collection when set-up for speed notice on local roads. He noted a replacement radar trailer is approximately \$15,000, and the grant would cover half of the cost.

Lt. Pelton also noted the Police Department had performed recent radar patrols funded through Highway Safety grants which resulted in 346 motor vehicles stops and the issuance of 48 tickets. He further reported the Department of Safety is providing quarterly reports on the status of police departments who are performing various grant funded patrols. For the months of January through March 2016, the Auburn Police Department was ranked 15th out of 40 departments for STEP patrols and fourth out of 40 for DWI patrols.

Road Agent Report:

Mike Dross reported they have performed shim and overlay work on Vici Drive, portions of Pingree Hill Road, Chester Turnpike, Raymond Road and Bunker Hill Road.

He indicated the reconstruction of Dearborn Road is moving along. They were currently in the area of Robert Sanborn's property and were going to the Candia town line. He felt they should be done the excavation work by next week, and then would complete the drainage work, place crush gravel and pave the road. He also indicated there was a catch basin to be installed, but they were definitely coming towards the end of the project. Dan Carpenter commented the newly paved section of Dearborn Road came out very well.

Mike Dross indicated he would be having a tree company come in shortly with a crane to remove some problem trees on Hooksett Road and Spofford Road. Dan Carpenter mentioned there was a large tree that should be looked at on Lovers Lane intersection with Chester Road for being taken down. Mr. Dross also indicated he has been noticing there are a number of red ash trees throughout the Town that are going to have to be addressed.

Rick Eaton reported he had been in contact with folks from NHDOT concerning work taking place on Hooksett Road. He was told it was on the schedule for Pike to pave the

road, but they were not certain when. The Road Agent understood the road would be paved on September 28th and 29th, but that Continental Paving would be doing the work. There was discussion as to whether the work would include reclaiming and relaying the current pavement, and then placing an overlay on top of that. The Road Agent noted a problem many communities and the State had a few years ago due to the mix of recycled material used in the paving mix. It was suggested the Town may want to request a spec sheet for paving materials to be used next year and ensure the Town receives the mix that it wants in its roads to avoid problems.

Mike Dross also reported the Town is in the process of replacing the fence and gate at the top of Dartmouth Drive. The vendor expects to replace the hardware in October, and then the Town will place Jersey barriers in front of much of the fence to ensure it could not be damaged as the current one had been.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Mike Dross moved to approve the minutes of the June 22nd, 2016 meeting as presented. Seconded by Dan Carpenter. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion carried unanimously.

Next Meetings:

Mike Dipietro indicated the meeting dates for the rest of the year include:

Wednesday, October 19th
Wednesday, November 16th
Wednesday, December 21st

Adjourn:

Mike Dross moved to adjourn; Lt. Pelton seconded the motion. All were in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM.