Town of Auburn Highway Safety Committee December 20, 2017

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

Also Present: Justin & Tasha Lemon and Town Administrator William Herman

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

Hooksett Road Bus Stop:

Justin and Tasha Lemon of 204 Hooksett Road met with the committee to discuss their concerns with the current school bus stop location near his home. They indicated they had a seven-year-old son and an 11-year-old daughter who have to walk up and down the hill to 212 Hooksett Road to get the school bus. They felt it was not a safe situation, particularly in the winter months when there is no ability to get off the road so they are competing with traffic walking up and down the hill. Mr. Lemon indicated his family has lived at this location since 1992 and the school bus used to stop at the mailbox for this property to pick-up himself and his younger sister for school. The Lemons indicated there are no school children being picked-up or dropped off at 212 Hooksett Road except for their children. They cannot understand why the bus stop location was changed and feel that the options for their children of walking to 212 Hooksett Road or to the Village of Lake Forest stop in the other direction are not safe.

Committee members were in general agreement, with both Mr. DiPietro and Mr. Carpenter recalling the Committee has looked at this general area in the past. They noted there were concerns for sight distance when the school bus was stopping at Depot Road before getting to 204 Hooksett Road. With the Depot Road intersection before the crest of the hill on Hooksett Road, it provided extremely poor sight distance for traffic traveling south on Hooksett Road. However, in looking at this specific location from a street view on Google Earth, it was felt a bus stop at the mailbox at 204 Hooksett Road would be at the crest of the hill and provides a sight distance of 400-feet or more in both directions. They also looked at the current location used at 212 Hooksett Road, and felt there was also a 400-foot or more sight distance there for vehicles traveling south on Hooksett Road, but would be less than that for vehicles traveling north.

Following discussion, Dan Carpenter moved for the Highway Safety Committee to send a letter to the Auburn School District with copies to the School Bus vendor and the NH Department of Education recommending the bus stop for this area be established at the crest of the hill near the mailbox for 204 Hooksett Road. Seconded by Rick Eaton. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

The Lemons left the meeting at 7:28 PM.

Police Report:

Sergeant Cashman reported there had been 201 motor vehicle stops during the past month. There were 23 motor vehicle accidents or vehicles off the road, resulting in five arrests during the same time period, of which two were DWI arrests. There were 17 citations issued by the department.

He reported since the last meeting in October there has been one additional rollover accident on Raymond Road, bringing the total to five in 2017.

Meeting Minutes:

Dan Carpenter moved to approve the minutes of the October 18, 2017 meeting. Seconded by Rick Eaton. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion carried unanimously.

Other Business:

Mr. DiPietro mentioned he has heard several comments the hash box established on Eaton Hill Road for the student drop off and pick-up at the Auburn Village School has worked out quite well.

Mr. Eaton noted perhaps some thought for "No Parking" signs or a hash box at the entrance to the Auburn Village Cemetery would be appropriate as well. When the parents line up bumper-to-bumper for the student drop-off, vehicles cannot get in or out of the cemetery.

Mr. Carpenter mentioned he would like to see the barricades moved off of the Griffin Mill Bridge at least enough to allow pedestrians to be able to access the bridge. He also felt as posted, they are not an attractive addition to the community. Mr. Herman noted the Road Agent followed the specific directive of the NH Department of Transportation as approved by the Board of Selectmen. Suggestions were made that some other form of barricade be considered such as chains or bollards. Mr. DiPietro indicated this would be a topic for a future discussion.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Highway Safety Committee will be held on Wednesday, January 17, 2018 at 7:00 PM.

Adjourn:

Kevin Cashman moved to adjourn; Dan Carpenter seconded the motion. All were in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.