

**Town of Auburn
Highway Safety Committee
September 18, 2019**

Committee Members Present: Mike DiPietro, Chairman; Rick Eaton, Mike Dross, Road Agent, Sgt. Kevin Cashman, Dan Carpenter and Dennis Vieira

Call to Order: Mr. DiPietro called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

Appointment with the Committee – Carl Eppich, Principal Transportation Planner,
SNHPC Road Safety Programs

Mr. Eppich appeared on behalf of the SNHPC Road Safety Program and is visiting local towns to see if there is any interest in having road safety audits at eligible locations identified on the maps he provided. Mr. Eppich noted the process is free of charge and is designed to work with small impact projects that can be remedied in areas that have experienced a history of deadly or consistently severe accidents. The map provided by Mr. Eppich noted several intersections and state roads shown in green. Mr. Eppich indicated the process is begun by identifying intersections the Town would like to have audited followed by an application form being filled out by a representative of the Committee. There is no limit to the number submitted but Mr. Eppich recommended prioritizing them. The deadline for filing the application is December 1st, however Mr. Eppich recommended getting started by October 1st.

Mr. Eppich spoke about the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) and help with regional signal warrant studies that are also available.

Funds are available for larger projects thru a ten-year process. Items like removing telephone poles are bigger expenses. SNHPC would coordinate working with the Police Department, Fire Department and NHDOT to design low impact solutions such as removing trees and other features that block view, adding signs, and reviewing lighting to name a few examples. Mike Dugas is the project manager at the NHDOT. The Committee agreed Bill Herman who is the Town Administrator and a SNHPC representative would be their representative.

Sgt. Cashman explained that to be eligible while an intersection can have tons of accidents, they would not be eligible if there were no fatalities or consistent incapacitating injuries, and the cause to be a physical feature of the intersection or roadway rather than a behavioral cause such as a drunk driver. Sgt. Cashman will gather data and send it to Mr. Eppich.

The Committee agreed the following four intersections would be their priority for the first round of applications:

- Lovers Lane and NH Route 121
- Calef Road and NH Route 121
- Wilson Crossing and By-Pass 28
- Lovers Lane, Bunker Hill Road and Coleman Road
- Bunker Hill Road and Gardner Road (there is no streetlight and kids wait for the bus in the am in the dark, 25 new houses are there now)

Mr. Vieira noted another impact is traffic is increasing. Mr. Eaton agreed and noted he counted cars himself one morning waiting at an intersection.

New Business

Wethersfield Homeowners Association (HOA)

Larry Marino, President of Wethersfield HOA, JP Pegun, Chairman of the Wethersfield HOA and Steve Gallinaro appeared to express concerns about traffic in the Wethersfield neighborhood, especially Steam Mill Road. Recently a girl was hit by a car while riding her bike after a driver rolled out of a stop sign at Windsor Drive and Steam Mill Road. A dog was also hit by a car. Drivers are cutting through and speeding. Sgt. Cashman noted a traffic study had been done by the Police Department and found no excessive speeds consistently over 35 mph and detailed the three accidents in the neighborhood over the past year. Sgt. Cashman reviewed what steps would be needed to lower a speed limit and identified other methods of slowing traffic down such as making the wide roadway look narrower.

The residents were in favor of either the flashing speed limit, a stop sign reminder sign and/or an additional stop sign. The residents will go before the Board of Selectmen at their next meeting and also asked for patrols during peak times identified as M-Th from 5:30 to 7.

Coleman Road / Eaton Hill Road

Mr. Carpenter expressed concerns about traffic driving on the wrong side of the road at this intersection.

Old Business

Mr. Eaton noted the sign on Eaton Hill Road at the Auburn Village Cemetery is working well and the cemetery is no longer being blocked.

Police Report

Sgt. Cashman reported for the period of August 15, 2019 to September 15, 2019 there were eight accidents, 153 motor vehicle stops, 22 summonses and one arrest. Sgt. Cashman noted there is no parking in front of cisterns. Mr. Carpenter questioned whether signs were necessary, or was this common sense as with hydrants.

Road Agent's Report

Road Agent Dross noted traffic is not stopping at the intersection of Dearborn Road and Coleman Road.

Road Agent Dross reported the Spofford Road rebuilt is done, while the shim and overlay will be done soon on Spofford Road, Wildwood Drive and Old Candia Road. Catch basins will be done on Lakeview Way. Mr. Herman is totaling the expenditures to see if additional roads can be paved, such as Joan Drive, Walnut Drive, Acorn Avenue, Eaton Hill Road and Hooksett Road.

Review June 19, 2019 Meeting Minutes - Tabled

Next Meeting: October 16, 2019

Adjourn

Mr. Dross motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 PM. Chair DiPietro seconded the motion, with all in favor, so moved.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Hoijer,
Recording Secretary