

Town of Hollis
Highway Safety Committee Minutes
April 25th 2023
1:00pm - Community Room
FINAL

HIGHWAY SAFETY BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Jim Belanger, Chairperson;
Paul Miller, Vice Chairperson; Joan Cudworth; DPW Director, Joseph Hoebeke, Chief of Police;
Rob Boggis, Fire Chief; Joseph Garruba, Selectmen Representative; Herm Stickney;
Deb Lussier, Don Ryder (alternate); Teresa Rosetti (alternate); Willie Walker (alternate)

ABSENT: None

Non-Members in attendance: Michelle St. John, Orchard Drive and Co-owners of 71 Depot Road

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Belanger called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm and led all in attendance to the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF January 17th, 2023 MINUTES: J. Hoebeke made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by P. Miller. All in favor, R. Boggis abstained.

APPROVAL OF April 11th, 2023 MINUTES: J. Hoebeke made a motion to accept, seconded by P. Miller. All in favor, none opposed.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman

Vote for Chairman - D. Ryder made motion to re-elect J. Belanger for Chair; P. Miller 2nd, All in favor, none opposed

Vote for Vice Chairman - D. Ryder made a motion to re-elect P. Miller for Vice Chairman, seconded by J. Hoebeke. All in favor, none opposed

2. Vote to increase membership by 1

Even though this was approved by the Select Board, it was recommended for the HSC members to vote. Motion by J. Belanger; seconded by J. Cudworth. All in favor, none opposed

3. Discussion with the owner of 71 Depot Road (owner: Malagodi) regarding fence hindering clear sight distance exiting Merrill Ln. onto Depot Rd.

This was requested to be moved later within the meeting. Owner Mr. Malagodi wasn't in attendance at the meeting but his daughter who is co-owner and her husband stated they were invited to hear the discussion.

J. Belanger asked if they would like to be heard and if they wouldn't mind to wait to have the discussion.

D. Ryder made a motion to delay the discussion until a bit further into the meeting. Seconded by J. Hoebeke . All in favor, none opposed

4. Ron Radice, 180 Wheeler Rd -Speeding on Wheeler Rd. Requests stop sign or slow down signs at the intersection of Pierce Ln. and Wheeler Rd.

Mr. Radice was not in attendance. J. Belanger read the application he submitted.

There was discussion regarding what type of sign and where it would go. J. Cudworth stated there was a large ditch area which would make it very difficult to install a sign. It was asked by T. Rosetti if there was police data showing it to be a high accident area.

J. Hoebeke stated there wasn't but he would research it by putting the smaller speed sign out.
J. Belanger noted a stop sign would not be installed on Wheeler Rd. as that had been attempted on Pine Hill Rd and it wreaked havoc.

R. Boggis stated he feels there's a multitude of issues with the most pertinent being the row of shrubbery leaning into the road. He stated in order to avoid hitting them, vehicles move into the center of the road. He also noted there hasn't been an accident there in 5 years and there's stone walls on each side of the road so if there were any accidents the Fire Dept would have been notified. He added people coming out of Pierce Ln roll through the stop sign instead of coming to a complete stop.

J. Hoebeke made a motion to table to the next meeting so he has time to investigate and provide additional data. Seconded by J. Cudworth. All in favor, none opposed.

3. (Continued from earlier) Discussion with the owner of 71 Depot Road (owner: Malagodi) regarding fence hindering clear sight distance exiting Merrill Ln. onto Depot Rd.

The members revisited the discussion regarding the sight distance issue at the corner of Merrill Ln and Depot Rd.

It was noted by J. Belanger this discussion has been ongoing for over a year or more. It was suggested to remove the fence to increase sight distance.

The owners stated they don't want the fence removed as they have 2 small children however, they would be interested in changing it or moving it if the town would pay for it. They also noted they don't believe the fence is the issue as it appears the accidents they've seen has to do with vehicles turning left onto Merrill from Depot Rd.

The convex mirror was briefly discussed with some members stating it's helpful and others stating it's not.

Michelle St. John (audience) stated sidewalks from Merrill Ln. to Nichols Field might help. It was noted that adding sidewalks isn't the best solution and it adds extra cost and maintenance issues. There was a discussion on changing Merrill from a two-way road to a one-way but everyone agreed it would disperse more traffic into the Monument Square area which already sees a lot of traffic.

J. Cudworth stated she would explore costs and/or ideas from a few fencing companies.

J. Hoebeke made a motion to table this discussion until they get more information.
Seconded by R. Boggis. All in favor, none opposed

5. Michelle St. John, speeding, high traffic on Orchard Dr.

Michelle spoke in regards to speeding and traffic on Orchard Dr specifically during use of the Recreation fields. She's looking to lower the speed limit or find a solution to limit traffic.

J. Hoebeke stated the speed limit in Hollis is 30mph unless otherwise posted.

M. St. John stated she was shocked to hear the speed limit was 30mph around the cul-de-sac. She states the kids in the neighborhood play in the street and the cars that go around the cul-de-sac to park on the left side of Orchard during games are speeding.

It was mentioned that maybe the scheduling of games might help. M. St. John stated she already spoke to Erica, Hollis Recreation Director regarding that.

J. Cudworth stated the parking lots across the street were built and crosswalks added so the families could park there. She suggested "no parking" or "no thru traffic" signs on Orchard Dr. to help alleviate the issue.

There was discussion about lowering the speed limit but there was concerns that not only could this set a precedence but does a speed limit sign slow people down?

106 M. St. John stated she'd like to see them all ticketed.

107 A motion was made by R. Boggis to recommend to the Select Board the current speed limit of 30mph
108 on Orchard Dr. be lowered to 20mph. Seconded by J. Hoebeke. All in favor, none opposed.
109

110 P. Miller made a motion to table the discussion of "no parking" on Orchard Dr to the next meeting.
111 Seconded by J. Hoebeke. All in favor, none opposed.
112

113 **OLD BUSINESS:**
114

- 115 **1. Discussion by Joan Cudworth, DPW Director regarding the installation of 2 "sharp curve" signs at**
116 **either end of the sharp curve on Wright Rd. Initial request by Willie Walker.**
117

118 J. Cudworth discussed her findings regarding this request. She doesn't recommend the installation of
119 signs due to lack of safe placement. She stated there's drainage on one side and ledge on the other.
120 The only other place would be on a residents' property and that resident will not allow it. She noted
121 there's sufficient area on the side of road for walking.
122

123 Motion made by J. Cudworth that nothing further needs to be done. 2nd by R. Boggis. All in favor,
124 none opposed
125

- 126 **2. Follow-up on convex mirror at Merrill and Depot Rd. (tabled from Jan. 17th mtg)**
127 Motion made to table until further research has been completed by J. Hoebeke. Seconded by
128 R. Boggis. All in favor, none opposed.
129

- 130 **3. Follow up to the traffic study for Rte. 122 (tabled from Jan. 17th mtg.)**
131

132 J. Hoebeke stated the study has been completed by the State of NH. J. Cudworth volunteered to reach
133 out to them and obtain the data. Motion made by J. Hoebeke to table until the next meeting.
134 Seconded by J. Cudworth. All in favor, none opposed
135

136 The members discussed what jurisdiction/function the HSC plays a part in as it appears the issues
137 being brought forth have to do with speeding. It was noted that the HSC function is to recommend
138 solutions to the Select Board regarding issues that affect safety on the town roads, etc. and not
139 specifically speeding. J. Belanger stated people are speeding everywhere and unless there's specific
140 history involving accidents at certain locations or intersections, etc. the speeding complaints need to
141 be handled by the Police Dept.
142

143 J. Hoebeke stated there was 118 accidents last year in the town. He noted most of them were caused
144 by weather, distraction & texting. He also stated the main throughfares had a higher percentage and
145 notes traffic accidents in NH are on the rise.
146

147 With no other business to discuss, J. Cudworth made a motion to adjourn, seconded by
148 R. Boggis. All in favor, none opposed.
149

150 The Highway Safety Committee was officially adjourned at 2:30pm.
151

152 Respectively submitted by:
153

154 ***Beverly Hill***
155

156 Executive Assistant
157 Town of Hollis - DPW