

**Town of Hollis
Highway Safety Committee Minutes**

**January 19, 2021
Community Room**

DRAFT

HIGHWAY SAFETY BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Jim Belanger, Chairperson;
Paul Miller, Vice Chairperson; Paul Armstrong, Selectmen's Representative;
Ted Chamberlin, Joan Cudworth, DPW Director; Joe Hoebeke, Police Chief;
Deb Lussier (alternate), Don Ryder (alternate), Herm Stickney;
Rick Towne, Fire Chief

ABSENT: NO ONE

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

Vice Chairperson Miller requested the opportunity to lead the meeting.
Chairman Belanger consented.

P. Miller outlined the agenda items. He inquired to the status of old business items of the stop sign at Fletcher and the purchase of speed indicators. Both items will be discussed during the meeting.

1) Request by Mr. Roach of 128 South Merrimack Road to have the town install a "Caution, Steep Hill Ahead, Slippery When Snow Covered" sign in the vicinity of his property.

Mr. Roach spoke to the members regarding the numerous accidents on his property especially in the Winter and noted he's tired of fixing the damage to his property. He stated the signs that are currently there are useless and have no meaning and he'd like the town to install a new sign with easy language. He added that in the past he petitioned to lower the speed limit but nothing came of it. He suggested a stop sign at the intersection of South Merrimack and Nevins to slow the traffic down.

A number of committee members voiced their opposition to adding a stop sign.
J. Belanger noted it's a collector road and a stop sign wouldn't be viable. He spoke briefly about the stop signs which had been installed years ago at Pine Hill Road and Ranger Road/Howe Lane and how they're no longer there as they found them not to be beneficial.

J. Hoebeke stated he was in favor of a sign and added there had been 96 accidents on South Merrimack Road within 10 years and 7 of those were in front of Mr. Roach's property. He noted that the Police Dept. currently has 2 digital signs that collect data and are deployed throughout town. He added they have 2 large reader signs that also collect data.

Mr. Roach suggested the removal of some of the signs that currently are there and replace them with 1 or 2 different signs.

J. Belanger made a motion to recommend to the Board of Selectman a sign similar to the one Mr. Roach requested be installed. J. Hoebeke seconded. Motion passed, no one opposed.

P. Miller asked why the request of the additional speed indicator wasn't recommended to the Board of Selectmen and felt it should be. P. Armstrong stated he'd bring it up to them at the next meeting. J. Hoebeke stated he'll research cost of signs and get back in touch with him.

J. Garruba, 28 Winchester Drive spoke to the members to voice his opinion against flashing signs. He stated Nashua has them in various locations throughout and noted that they don't belong in a rural community.

2) Transportation Alternatives Program Funding (TAP) – upgrade Main St/School crosswalk

"The goal of the federally-funded Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) is to provide choices for non-motorized users that are safe, reliable, and convenient. TAP was created under a federal law known as Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) to consolidate many stand-alone programs into a single, more flexible program. Programs replaced by TAP are Safe Routes to School, Recreational Trails, Transportation Enhancement, and Scenic and Cultural Byways.

Funding Limitations:

- Minimum project limit is \$400,000 (total dollars) – (\$320,000 federal)
- Maximum project limit is \$1,250,000 (total dollars) - (\$1,000,000 federal)
- Project will require at least a 20% match provided by the applicant"

For more info visit their website at:

<https://www.nh.gov/dot/org/projectdevelopment/planning/tap/index.htm>

The members discussed the probability of using the \$400K grant at the school crosswalk on Main St.

R. Towne stated he's not a big advocate of signs but stated something should be done as it's hard to see someone crossing especially when cars are parked along Main Street in front of the "block".

J. Belanger stated he felt these signs can give the pedestrian a sense of security as they walk out into traffic and used Silver Lake State Park crosswalk as an example. R. Towne stated there was better sight distance there than Main St.

A suggestion was made to look into the push button crosswalk signals like Nashua uses.

R. Towne noted that a person crossing the street would at least have to stop and think about pushing the button before walking into traffic.

There was brief conversation that Ash Street and Depot Road crosswalks should be included in this discussion. It was noted that cars park along Depot Road which blocks the view of pedestrians trying to cross from one field to the other. P. Armstrong stated there should be more enforcement on Depot Road and less parking.

P. Miller stated T. Croteau, former DPW Director estimated \$40-\$50K to upgrade the crosswalks.

J. Cudworth stated the grant is offered by NRPC every year and remembers that T. Bayrd, former Director looked into it but isn't sure what transpired from it.

R. Towne recalled a study had been done for the school crosswalk such as the moving of a telephone pole along with parking in front of the block prohibited and then the crosswalk appeared. There was discussion in regards to whether or not the crosswalk in front of the school had received approval from the State DOT and who's responsible for it now.

P. Armstrong believes the SAU took charge of it.

It was noted the deadline for submission is February 5th 2021 so the recommendation would need to get to the BOS for the January 25th meeting. P. Armstrong stated that he would present the information at the upcoming Board of Selectman meeting.

J. Hoebeke made a motion to recommend the Board of Selectman complete the Letter of Intent prior to the deadline of February 5th to secure the funding. R. Towne seconded. Motion passed; J. Belanger opposed.

3) Fletcher Lane resident wants to re-visit "no thru traffic" signs and paving.

J. Belanger stated the paving request doesn't involve a safety concern for this committee to consider. The members spoke about the request/complaint for "no thru traffic/no trucking" sign. The request/complaint is due to a specific truck that's been using Fletcher Lane as a cut through. It was noted by a member that there's a "Trucks No Left Turn onto Fletcher Ln" sign on Witches Spring Road. It was decided there's no viable reason to stop trucks from using Fletcher Lane since there isn't bridge structures or any specific danger requiring a weight limit and the town can't legally stop traffic on a public right of way.

J. Cudworth stated that T. Croteau, former Director told this resident he'd bring the sign concern up at the next Highway Safety Committee meeting.

J. Belanger recommended no action be taken on Fletcher Lane. P. Miller seconded. Motion passed. No one opposed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Approval of Minutes

J. Belanger moved to approve the minutes of October 26, 2020 with a change on line #27.

J. Cudworth seconded, all in favor, no one opposed. J. Hoebeke and T. Chamberlin abstain.

NEW BUSINESS:

H. Stickney asked if the intersection of Wright Road and Broad St could be changed. He stated it's very hard to see traffic coming up Broad St while trying to take a left out of Wright Rd.

J. Cudworth agreed with him and stated it should be addressed eventually.

This will be added to the next HSC meeting April 20, 2021.

Chairman Belanger noted the next HSC will meet April 20, 2021 at 1:00 pm unless called to meet sooner.

P. Miller made a non-debatable motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:40 pm. J. Cudworth seconded. Motion passed, no one opposed.

Respectively submitted by:

Beverly Hill
Administrative Assistant
Town of Hollis - DPW