

**Town of Hollis
Highway Safety Committee Minutes**

**September 20th, 2022
Town Hall Community Room**

FINAL

HIGHWAY SAFETY BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Jim Belanger, Chairperson;
Paul Miller, Vice Chairperson; Tom Whalen, Selectmen Representative;
Rob Boggis, Fire Chief; Ted Chamberlin; Joan Cudworth, DPW Director;
Don Ryder (alternate)

Brandon LaFlamme, Police Captain (on behalf of Chief Hoebeke) arrived at 1:25pm to speak regarding the conversation and request between himself and Mr. Berke (Item 1)

ABSENT: Joe Hoebeke, Police Chief Deb Lussier (alternate), Herm Stickney

CALL TO ORDER: Assistant Chairman Miller called the meeting to order at 1:10pm and led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Selectman Representative T. Whalen requested a discussion with the HSC members regarding being more proactive with safety issues and the Master Plan. Chairman Belanger clarified that the committee functions primarily on hindsight activities. He stated if there was a schedule to update the Master Plan in the future, the Master Plan Committee could present it to the HSC and move forward from there.

There was brief discussion about the increase in traffic and accidents in town even with some new improvements.

D. Ryder spoke about removing the convex mirror at the end of Merrill Ln which is situated on Depot Rd. He stated he almost got hit by a tractor trailer. T. Chamberlin said to remove it. J. Cudworth volunteered to speak with the homeowner at the corner to see about moving the fence as she feels that might solve the issue of sight distance.

There was discussion about the other areas throughout town that has sight distance issues.

D. Ryder made a motion to remove convex mirror. T. Chamberlin seconded; vote passed 6-1.

T. Whalen, Selectmen Representative will present this to the BOS at the September 26th meeting.

1) Request by Howard Berke, 331 Silver Lake Rd to have the speed limit on state maintained Rte 122/Silver Lake Rd reduced to decrease vehicle speeds.

Captain LaFlamme attended this meeting as he originally spoke with Mr. Berke approximately 2 weeks prior to the deadly accident that occurred on the sharp curve after Truell Rd. He stated that Mr. Berke has noted an increase in traffic and speed in that area of Rte 122 and feels the speed limit needs to be lower or increase signage such as "reduce speed" or "curve ahead" should be installed. He also stated he feels the town should be proactive.

Captain Laflamme stated they've set up patrols, some 2 or 3 times a day along with equipment analysis in the location and noted cars are traveling 50-60mph. He stated that even though reconstruction of the deadly accident isn't complete, there was no doubt speed was a factor. He noted that Mr. Berke was supposed to attend the meeting as he studied road engineering 20+ years ago and wanted to share the information he attained.

Chairman Belanger stated he doesn't feel 40mph isn't too fast on that road. He added that it's a State DOT issue and reiterated the HSC recognizes issues which then is recommended to the Board of Selectmen. He feels the Chief of Police should contact the BOS.

D. Ryder added he feels the sign at Truell is in a bad location and suggests it be moved. There was discussion as to where on Rte 122 it turns to 40mph after the Silver Lake State Park. T. Whalen noted it lowers prior to the Flea Market.

Captain LaFlamme stated cars are definitely going too fast and they're enforcing as much as they can but they can't be everywhere.

Chairman Belanger is concerned about setting a precedence because all roads have speeding issues.

Discussion regarding the installation of signs along a state road. J. Cudworth stated the town can't install signs on any state-maintained road.

Chairman Belanger made a motion the Board of Selectmen recommend a traffic and speed study on Rte. 122 North of the 4 corners by the NH DOT be completed. D. Ryder seconded; vote passed 6-1.

T. Whalen, Selectmen Representative will present this to the BOS at the September 26th meeting.

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 18TH, 2021 MINUTES: Chairman Belanger made a motion to approve the minutes, D. Ryder seconded, approved 5-2.
J. Cudworth & T. Whalen abstained.

Chairman Belanger discussed the pond at the corner of Plain and Rte 122. He noted there was a lot of growth around the pond and was concerned with this. Chief Boggis stated the drain pipes at the bottom where they would draw the water from so the growth around the pond isn't of any concern. He added it's seasonal and usually dry in July. He stated that the farmers and landscapers use it all the time even though there's a pond way in the back. Chairman Belanger asked about any restrictions on the pond. Chief Boggis stated water isn't owned by the town or state unless the pond's on private property then the homeowner has control of the use of their pond.

P. Miller noted the next HSC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 17th at 1:pm in Town Hall meeting room.

T. Chamberlin made a motion to adjourn at 1:50pm, D. Ryder seconded, all in favor, none opposed.

Respectively submitted by:

Beverly Hill
Executive Assistant
Town of Hollis – Department of Public Works