

**Town of Hollis
Highway Safety Committee Minutes
October 14, 2019 - Community Room**

HIGHWAY SAFETY BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Jim Belanger, Chair;
Peter Band (for Susan Benz), Todd Croteau, Joe Hoebeke (via phone), Paul Miller,
Don Ryder and Rick Towne

ABSENT: Becky Crowther, Vice Chair and Clerk, Ted Chamberlin and Herm Stickney

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Belanger called the meeting to order at 3:07 pm

1) Stop Sign at So. Merrimack Road and 1 Nevins Rd.

Tom Jenkins, previous owner of the home (he stated he just sold the home) located at 1 Nevins Rd spoke about the lack of sight distance exiting this driveway to the left. States the driveway wouldn't be approved today. He states that during busy traffic times it's impossible to exit the driveway safely.

Chairman Belanger stated that it wasn't the first time the owner at this address had come forward. He added that installing a stop sign in the middle of a through road is not something the town usually favors. He spoke about the failure years prior when the town installed stop signs on Pine Hill Rd. at the intersection of Howe and Ranger.

It was noted that in the past the result for 1 Nevins was to remove some trees along So. Merrimack Rd along with the fact that there had been a convex mirror installed across from the driveway but no one knows what happened to it.

P. Miller suggested signs and blinking lights.

Chairman Belanger made a motion to recommend the installation of stop signs at this intersection be brought before the BOS. There was no 2nd motion, therefore the motion failed.

2) Installation of convex mirror at So. Merrimack Rd and 1 Nevins Rd.

This discussion piggy backed the stop sign discussion and concluded with the approval to allow Mr. Jenkins the installation of a convex mirror.

D. Ryder made a motion to accept the installation of the convex mirror by Mr. Jenkins. T. Croteau seconded, all in favor, none opposed.

**3) Traffic calming issues on So. Merrimack Rd, specifically ITVO
(in the vicinity of) 128 So. Merrimack Rd.**

The members discussed various options in order to slow the traffic down in front of 128 So. Merrimack Rd. and the entire length of this road.

T. Croteau suggests bringing the fog lines inward a couple feet to "tighten" the road and leaving the yellow center line where it is. He stated that it's inexpensive and has merit to work on slowing down traffic.

P. Miller asked if a couple signs could be installed stating “dangerous intersection”. T. Croteau stated if those type of signs were installed it could create a liability should an accident occur as the towns’ aware that the intersection poses a safety issue.

The board discussed the use of speed limit indicators which has been used throughout town.

J. Hobeke stated there’s some benefit to them but they’re not 100% guaranteed to work. He added that investing in a couple permanent signs could help but they’re expensive ranging anywhere from \$4500 to \$6000. He stated that they can be set to take pictures of the cars and accessed from a cloud storage which increases the cost.

Chairman Belanger asked how they’re powered. J. Hobeke stated either battery or solar and stated he recommends solar powered.

D. Ryder motioned to recommend the purchase of 2 speed indicators to the BOS. J. Hobeke seconded, all in favor, none opposed.

4) Paving aprons on dirt roads with stop signs that intersect paved roads.

Chairman Belanger stated he produced this concern as the gravel roads seem to get dug up at these intersections when the cars take off. No further discussion, no decision.

5) Upcoming meeting dates.

It was decided to wait until an issue arises to schedule a meeting. T. Croteau stated the next one would be in Jan of 2020.

OLD BUSINESS

1) Review crosswalk concerns on Ash St. and Main St.

Anna Birch asked how the HSC works when issues come before the committee. Chairman Belanger stated the committee votes to recommend whether they feel an issue warrants it be brought before the BOS for approval.

A. Birch states she’s looking for direction and assistance is creating a safe way to cross these roads. She added that she’s looked into various types of lighted signs and she’s aware of the expense of them but feels that safety is more important. She noted that Ash St is busier than Main St. She stated it shouldn’t take a death or serious injury to promote this. She’s happy about the striping but feels there needs to be more done.

R. Towne stated the school instigated the crosswalks and wondered if they could pay anything towards it. He added that the school seems to be the only one using it. A. Birch added that the Historical Society uses the crosswalk also.

T. Croteau noted that she’s just looking to enhance what the town has now.

Chairman Belanger added that since these two roads are State owned, they’d need to approve any changes.

R. Towne noted that whatever gets done to these two streets needs to also happen on Depot Road crosswalks.

P. Band questioned how much would these improvements cost. A. Birch responded that she's received different pricing than what T. Croteau quoted her but they ranged between \$20,000 to \$35,000. He also questioned if an engineering study needed to be completed. R. Towne stated they would need to be ADA approved. He added that at one point the Fire Dept inquired about installing a light at Glenice Dr. and Ash St to assist in pulling onto Ash St during an emergency call and the State told him it was up to the town to "foot the bill".

Further discussion included any grants available, utilizing fund raising to obtain monies needed and if it could be added as a Warrant Article at the next town meeting.

P. Band suggested A. Birch attend the next BOS meeting to discuss her findings and concerns.

T. Croteau motioned to recommend to the BOS enhancing the crosswalks on Ash St and Main St. R. Towne amended that motion to include Depot Rd. crosswalks. The Chairman stated that it had to be taken off the table by T. Croteau for the motion to be made. T. Croteau made the request and the amended motion was seconded by R. Towne, all in favor, none opposed.

2) Revisit striping on Farley Rd.

T. Croteau stated that upon milling of Farley Rd, it was noted that it had been striped with a solid, double yellow line in the past. He'd requesting the committee re-vote on this. He added that he'll be striping So. Merrimack, Witches Spring and Pine Hill at a cost of \$4840.13.

T. Croteau made a motion to stripe Farley Rd. J. Hobeke seconded, all in favor, none opposed.

3) Approval of Minutes

Chairman Belanger moved to approve the minutes of May 13, 2019 without changes. T. Croteau seconded, all in favor, none opposed.

D. Ryder a non-debatable motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:10 pm. T. Croteau seconded, all in favor, none opposed.

Respectively submitted by:

Beverly Hill
Administrative Assistant – DPW
Town of Hollis, NH