

**Town of Chester
Highway Safety Committee Meeting
Wednesday, June 28, 2023
Town Hall Meeting Room
Approved Minutes**

I Preliminaries

9:00am Call the Meeting to Order
Roll Call

Chairman's Additions or Deletions
Approval of Minutes – 3/8/2023
Any Other Old Business

Accident Reports – 3/1/2023 to 5/31/2023
Reports from Departments
Any Other New Business

Selectboard Request to Reduce Speed Limit to 25 MPH on Town Roads
Date of Next Meeting & Adjournment

1.1 Call to Order

Chairman Berube called this meeting of the Town of Chester Highway Safety Committee (HSC) to order at 9:02am.

1.2 Roll Call

Present:

Aaron Berube, Police Chief, Committee Chair
Myrick Bunker, Building Inspector
Paul Cavanaugh, Maintenance Director (arr. 9:16am)
Debra Doda, Town Administrator
Phil Gladu, Fire Chief
David LaVita, Resident
Jean Methot, Resident
Manette Pacheco, Resident
Justin Paquette, Lieutenant (Police)
James Piper, Supervisor of Roads
Dana Theokas, Selectwoman (arr. 9:05am)

1.3 Chairman's Additions or Deletions

None.

II. Old Business

2.1 Approval of Minutes: March 8, 2023

Mr. Methot moved to accept the Highway Safety Committee meeting minutes of March 8, 2023 with minor edits; Maintenance Director Cavanaugh seconded the motion. The vote was ten in the affirmative with Building Inspector Bunker abstaining; motion carried.

52 **2.2 Any Other Old Business**

54 *None.*

56 **III. New Business**

58 **3.1 Accident Reports – March 1, 2023 through May 31, 2023**

60 All members of the Highway Safety Committee were provided accident status reports for March
62 1, 2023 through May 31, 2023; please see attached.

64 Chairman Berube explained that there were 18 accidents reported during this time, including four
66 injuries and one fatality. The fatal incident was on Towle Road and is still pending investigation,
although preliminary findings suggest that speed and/or alcohol may have been factors.

68 **3.2 Reports from Departments**

70 **Mr. Lavita:** He observed a vehicle that seemed to purposely weave within a lane on Route 102
72 that had freshly painted fog lines.

74 **Ms. Pacheco:** She thanked the Highway Safety Committee for their role in getting the speed limit
76 of the unpaved portion of Halls Village Road reduced to 25MPH.

78 **Mr. Methot:** Nothing to report.

80 **Police Lt. Paquette:** Nothing to report.

82 **Supervisor of Roads Piper:** Chairman Berube informed SOR Piper that a resident requested
84 trimming the branches overhanging Town roads. SOR Piper explained that the Highway crew
86 was actually out at this moment using the pole saw to do this. It was remarked that it would take
88 significant additional resources to be able to perform this task at a greater magnitude.

90 **Selectwoman Theokas:** She suggested repairing a large rut at the edge of the Wason Pond
92 Community Center parking lot & Raymond Rd.

94 **Town Administrator Doda:** Per TA Doda’s request, SOR Piper explained that the trucks hauling
96 materials out of the Stowe Rd. gravel operation (“Groundhog”/Garabedian) have agreed to turn
98 left from Stowe Rd. onto Fremont Rd., then right onto Raymond Rd., and then right onto Towle
100 Rd. to proceed back toward Meadow Fox Ln. where they are delivering a large amount of
102 materials. This keeps them from using the red-listed Hanson Rd. bridge. Police Lt. Paquette
requested that the PD be apprised of such information so that if complaints of thru trucking are
made, they know how to address them.

Building Inspector Bunker: Nothing to report.

Fire Chief Gladu: The process of installing new / replacement address delineators for E911
compliance is ongoing. He praised Police, Fire & EMS personnel for their teamwork and
professionalism on the night of the fatal Towle Rd. accident.

Chairman Berube: Nothing to report.

104 **Maintenance Director Cavanaugh:** Nothing to report.

106 **3.3 Any Other New Business**

108 None.

110 **3.4 Selectboard Request to Reduce Speed Limit to 25 MPH on Town Roads**

112 The Selectboard recently discussed reducing the speed limit on Town roads to 25MPH. The
114 Selectboard agreed to have the Highway Safety Committee discuss this matter, and then to
116 provide the Selectboard with recommendations.

There was a discussion of how and if this should be executed, which roads may be affected, and
how to obtain residents' opinions on the matter.

Those present at this HSC meeting support administering a survey to residents to determine their
thoughts on the matter, most likely via postal mail with return postage provided and a QR code /
option to respond electronically. It was felt that a blanket change to all Town roads reducing the
speed limit to 25MPH would not be desirable. TA Doda will forward this information to the
Selectboard for discussion at their July 13th meeting. She will also price out the mailers & postage.
TA Doda will then draft the survey & send it to the HSC members for suggestions before sending
it to residents.

It was mentioned that a resident had reached out requesting that Hemlock Lane's speed limit be
reduced to 25MPH; a traffic study was done, TA Doda will get that information to the resident.

**The Selectboard request to reduce speed limit to 25MPH on Town roads, as well as
overhanging branch trimming will be placed on the next HSC meeting agenda.**

IV. Date of Next Meeting & Adjournment

The next meeting of the Highway Safety Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, September 20,
2023, at 9:00am in the Town Hall meeting room.

**Building Inspector Bunker moved to adjourn the meeting; Maintenance Director
Cavanaugh seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; motion
carried.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:51am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Caroline R. Wilson, Recording Secretary



Accident Status Report

From: 03/01/2023 Thru: 05/31/2023

06/27/2023

Location: (ALL)
 Street(s): (ALL)
 Zones: (ALL)
 Weekday(s): (ALL)

Case ID	Officer	State Rpt/Acc. Date & Time	Location / Street Names
23CHE-17-AC	4058	Yes 03/04/2023 0635	P/L CHESTER TRANSFER STATION / 50 DUMP RD
	Operator>	[REDACTED]	Veh# 1
	Operator>	[REDACTED]	Veh# 2
23CHE-18-AC	3147	Yes 03/07/2023 1414	NORTH POND WETLANDS CONSERVATION AREA / 119 N POND RD
	Operator>	[REDACTED]	Veh# 1
23CHE-19-AC	3147	Yes 03/13/2023 1149	11 HAVERHILL RD @ 19 RAYMOND RD
	Operator>	[REDACTED]	Veh# 1
	Operator>	[REDACTED]	Veh# 2
23CHE-21-AC	4079	No 03/14/2023 0547	154 SANDOWN RD @ 13 WELLS VILLAGE RD
	Operator>	[REDACTED]	Veh# 1
23CHE-20-AC	4079	No 03/14/2023 0504	78 RAYMOND RD
	Operator>	[REDACTED]	Veh# 1
23CHE-23-AC	9749	Yes 03/13/2023 0641	543 RAYMOND RD
	Operator>	[REDACTED]	Veh# 1
23CHE-22-AC	4057	Yes 03/15/2023 1626	54 TOWLE RD
	Operator>	[REDACTED]	Veh# 1
23CHE-24-AC	9749	Yes 03/22/2023 0800	56 PHEASANT RUN DR
	Operator>	[REDACTED]	Veh# 1
23CHE-25-AC	9749	Yes 03/30/2023 1121	9 HAVERHILL RD @ 1 RAYMOND RD
	Operator>	[REDACTED]	Veh# 1
	Operator>	[REDACTED]	Veh# 2
	Passenger>	[REDACTED]	Veh# 2
	Witness>	[REDACTED]	Veh#
	Witness>	[REDACTED]	Veh#
	Witness>	[REDACTED]	Veh#
23CHE-26-AC	0042	Yes 03/31/2023 2151	HAVERHILL / 9 DERRY RD @ 1 CHESTER ST
	Operator>	[REDACTED]	Veh# 1
	Operator>	[REDACTED]	Veh# 2
23CHE-27-AC	9749	Yes 04/03/2023 0905	1 HAVERHILL RD @ 19 RAYMOND RD
	Operator>	[REDACTED]	Veh# 1
	Passenger>	[REDACTED]	Veh# 1
	Operator>	[REDACTED]	Veh# 2 Injured

Accident Status Report

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From: 03/01/2023 Thru: 05/31/2023

06/27/2023

	Witness>	LENNON KEVIN	Veh#
23CHE-28-AC	<u>Officer</u>	<u>State Rpt/Acc. Date & Time</u>	<u>Location / Street Names</u>
	9749	Yes 04/06/2023 1429	692 RAYMOND RD @ 2 SHAKER HEIGHTS LN
	Operator>	[REDACTED]	Veh# 1
	Operator>	[REDACTED]	Veh# 2
23CHE-29-AC	<u>Officer</u>	<u>State Rpt/Acc. Date & Time</u>	<u>Location / Street Names</u>
	4031	Yes 04/10/2023 2304	239 CHESTER ST
	Operator>	[REDACTED]	Veh# 1
23CHE-30-AC	<u>Officer</u>	<u>State Rpt/Acc. Date & Time</u>	<u>Location / Street Names</u>
	0119	Yes 04/25/2023 1539	RAY T/L / 868 RAYMOND RD @ 15 HANSON RD
	Operator>	[REDACTED]	Veh# 1
	Operator>	[REDACTED]	Veh# 2 Injured
	Witness>	[REDACTED]	Veh#
23CHE-31-AC	<u>Officer</u>	<u>State Rpt/Acc. Date & Time</u>	<u>Location / Street Names</u>
	9749	Yes 05/04/2023 1406	178 DERRY RD @ 27 SOUTH WOODS RD
	Operator>	[REDACTED]	Veh# 1 Injured
	Operator>	[REDACTED]	Veh# 2
23CHE-32-AC	<u>Officer</u>	<u>State Rpt/Acc. Date & Time</u>	<u>Location / Street Names</u>
	4079	Yes 05/12/2023 2138	98 FIDDLEHEAD LN
	Operator>	[REDACTED]	Veh# 1
23CHE-33-AC	<u>Officer</u>	<u>State Rpt/Acc. Date & Time</u>	<u>Location / Street Names</u>
	0042	Yes 05/18/2023 2223	96 TOWLE RD
	Operator>	[REDACTED]	Veh# 1 Fatality
	Witness>	[REDACTED]	Veh#
	Witness>	[REDACTED]	Veh#
23CHE-34-AC	<u>Officer</u>	<u>State Rpt/Acc. Date & Time</u>	<u>Location / Street Names</u>
	0042	Yes 05/20/2023 1604	1 WEBSTER LN @ 199 DERRY RD
	Operator>	[REDACTED]	Veh# 1 Injured
	Operator>	[REDACTED]	Veh# 2

State Reports Required: 16
 # State Reports Not Required: 2