

**Town of Chester
Highway Safety Committee Meeting
Wednesday, December 20, 2023
Rangeway Meeting Room
Approved Minutes**

I Preliminaries

- 9:00am Call the Meeting to Order
- Roll Call
- Chairman’s Additions or Deletions
- Approval of Minutes – 9/27/2023
- Speed Limit on Town Roads (Hemlock Ln.) - **Tabled**
- Any Other Old Business
- Accident Reports – 9/1/2023 to 11/30/2023
- Reports from Departments
- RADAR Trailer Maintenance
- Any Other New Business
- 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 9:01am.

1.2 Roll Call

Present:

- Aaron Berube, Police Chief, Committee Chair
- Myrick Bunker, Building Inspector
- Paul Cavanaugh, Maintenance Director
- Debra Doda, Town Administrator
- Phil Gladu, Fire Chief / Emergency Management Director (EMD)
- Andrew Hadik, Town Planner
- David LaVita, Resident
- Jean Methot, Resident
- Manette Pacheco, Resident
- Justin Paquette, Police Lieutenant
- James Piper, Supervisor of Roads (SOR)

1.3 Chairman’s Additions or Deletions

Chairman Berube took a moment to thank Ms. Wilson for her service as a recording secretary for the past several years. Chairman Berube and the Committee wished Ms. Wilson the best of luck in her new role.

II. Old Business

2.1 Approval of Minutes: September 27, 2023

Town Planner Hadik moved to accept the Highway Safety Committee meeting minutes of

52 **September 27, 2023 as written; Maintenance Director Cavanaugh seconded the motion.**
54 **The vote was ten in the affirmative with Mr. Methot abstaining due to absence; motion**
56 **carried.**

56 **2.2 Speed Limit on Town Roads (Hemlock Ln.)**

58 It was explained that the speed trailer was only recently installed on Hemlock Ln. and there isn't
60 enough data to discuss; therefore this item has been **tabled** to the next HSC meeting.

62 **2.3 Any Other Old Business**

64 None.

66 **III. New Business**

68 **3.1 Accident Reports – September 1, 2023-November 30, 2023**

70 All members of the Highway Safety Committee were provided accident status reports for
72 September 1, 2023 through November 30, 2023; please see attached.

74 There were 15 accidents total; 4 of which caused injuries. One of the 15 accidents was not State-
76 reportable; this means that the damage value does not meet a certain threshold.

78 Chairman Berube noted that the State is changing its Police operating system in 2024; the new
80 accident reports will include GPS coordinates.

82 **3.2 Reports from Departments**

84 **Fire Chief / EMD Gladu and Supervisor of Roads Piper:** These reports have been combined
86 because many overlapping aspects of the rain and windstorm flooding & damage caused on 12/17
88 and 12/18/23 were discussed. While there were many minor issues that had to be corrected or
90 sections of roads that had to be closed, there were no major damages to Town infrastructure. The
92 biggest concerns for the future are the Cole Rd. culvert and the Harantis Lake dam. The Harantis
94 Lake dam is on private property which complicates the ability to be proactive in managing or
96 repairing it. The State has "flagged" the dam, so the pressure is on the Homeowners' Association
98 that governs it. This dam is at the top of the Town's Hazard Mitigation Plan's concerns. It was
100 also noted that Shatagee Rd. in Raymond is closed; but residents of Shattigee Rd. in Chester do
102 have access in and out. An MOU was recently established by Raymond and Chester regarding
the Shatagee/Shattigee Rd. culvert; it is Raymond's responsibility to repair it.

92 **Town Planner Hadik:** He wished to acknowledge the benchmark of what 4" of rain has caused
94 in Town; he encouraged everyone to consider what 6" of rain might do in such heavily-saturated
96 conditions. He received a call from a resident reporting that Whetstone Pond was diminished due
98 to a beaver dam having failed. Proactive management of beavers and the perils of neglecting
such was discussed at length. It was noted that "pond levelers" / "beaver deceivers" cost about
\$2,500 each, plus maintenance costs. The importance of getting residents' written consent for
the Town to enter private property to manage beavers was stated. It was suggested that the
"Beaver Mitigation Committee" be reinstated ASAP in order to identify problem dams and move
forward proactively.

102 **Ms. Pacheco:** She praised the Highway Department for closing flood-compromised sections of

104 roads, such as a portion of Halls Village Rd. She was surprised to hear that some drivers
disregard the signs and cones and drive around them.

106 **Maintenance Director Cavanaugh:** A new roof was installed on the Recreation Office last week
but did leak during the storm due to a seam not being sealed; this has been resolved. All other
108 roofs in need of repair or replacement remain in need.

110 **Mr. LaVita:** He mentioned the catastrophic beaver dam washout in July on Lane Rd. and
wondered how proactive the Town can be when it comes to beaver dams; which prompted the
112 conversation above in Town Planner Hadik's report. The legality of monitoring with drones /
whose purview it was to survey the Town for dams was discussed. Chairman Berube will call NH
114 Fish & Game for more information on beaver dams, as well as what can be done if individuals are
found to be aiding beaver dam construction.

116 **TA Doda:** She thanked SOR Piper for taking care of the roads throughout the storm. She
118 mentioned that a resident wondered why a certain road's repair hadn't gone out to bid; it was
explained that it was an emergency and needed to be fixed ASAP. The Town is fortunate to have
120 capable and experienced contractors readily available to them in cases like these.

122 The remaining representatives had nothing to report.

124 **3.3 RADAR Trailer Maintenance**

126 At the September 27th HSC meeting, Chairman Berube explained that the All Traffic Solutions
radar trailer subscription renewal cost was \$1,500. Without this subscription, nothing can be done
128 with the data that the radar trailer collects. The HSC recommended the subscription be renewed
and charged to the IT budget line; where the expense will remain.

130 **3.4 Any Other New Business**

132 None.

134 **IV. Date of Next Meeting & Adjournment**

136 The next meeting of the Highway Safety Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, March 20, 2024,
138 at 9:00am in the Town Hall meeting room.

140 **Mr. Methot moved to adjourn the meeting; Building Inspector Bunker seconded the motion.
The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; motion carried.**

142 The meeting was adjourned at 9:50am.

144 Respectfully Submitted,
146 Caroline R. Wilson, Recording Secretary



Accident Status Report

From: 09/01/2023 Thru: 11/30/2023

12/13/2023

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

Case ID	Officer	State Rpt/Acc. Date & Time	Location / Street Names
23CHE-50-AC	4079 Operator> [REDACTED]	Yes 09/06/2023 0635	149 PHEASANT RUN DR Veh# 1
23CHE-51-AC	3147 Operator> [REDACTED] Operator> [REDACTED]	Yes 09/12/2023 1330	KENT HOUSE / 30 CHESTER ST Veh# 1 Veh# 2
23CHE-52-AC	7089 Operator> [REDACTED]	No 09/13/2023 1429	60 LADY SLIPPER LN Veh# 1
23CHE-53-AC	3147 Operator> [REDACTED] Operator> [REDACTED]	Yes 09/15/2023 1245	1 CHESTER ST @ 19 RAYMOND RD Veh# 1 Veh# 2 Injured *
23CHE-54-AC	9749 Operator> [REDACTED]	Yes 09/21/2023 2205	319 DERRY RD Veh# 1 Injured *
23CHE-55-AC	9749 Operator> [REDACTED] Witness> [REDACTED]	Yes 09/30/2023 1759	225 HALLS VILLAGE RD Veh# 1 Injured *
23CHE-56-AC	3147 Operator> [REDACTED] Operator> [REDACTED] Witness> [REDACTED]	Yes 10/03/2023 1430	120 RAYMOND RD @ 12 OLD SANDOWN RD Veh# 1 Veh# 2 Veh# 0
23CHE-57-AC	3147 Operator> [REDACTED] Passenger> [REDACTED]	Yes 10/13/2023 1200	234 DERRY RD Veh# 1 Veh# 1
23CHE-58-AC	9749 Operator> [REDACTED] Passenger> [REDACTED]	Yes 10/16/2023 2151	SHARP CURVE BY / 17 REED RD Veh# 1 Injured * Veh# 1 Injured *
23CHE-59-AC	9749 Operator> [REDACTED]	No 10/24/2023 0149	116 HAVERHILL RD Veh# 1
23CHE-60-AC	4058 Operator> [REDACTED]	Yes 10/30/2023 0026	221 NORTH POND RD Veh# 1 Injured *
23CHE-61-AC	3195 Operator> [REDACTED]	Yes 11/01/2023 1832	51 SHEPARD HOME RD @ GREAT OAK DR

Accident Status Report

From: 09/01/2023 Thru: 11/30/2023

12/13/2023

	Operator> [REDACTED]	Veh# 1
	Operator> [REDACTED]	Veh# 2
	Passenger> [REDACTED]	Veh# 1
	Passenger> [REDACTED]	Veh# 1
23CHE-62-AC	<u>Officer</u> State Rpt/Acc. Date & Time 4031 Yes 11/11/2023 1058	<u>Location / Street Names</u> 119 RAYMOND RD @ 19 NORTH POND RD
	Operator> [REDACTED]	Veh# 1
	Operator> [REDACTED]	Veh# 2
23CHE-63-AC	<u>Officer</u> State Rpt/Acc. Date & Time 3001 Yes 11/12/2023 1740	<u>Location / Street Names</u> RAYMOND RD
	Operator> [REDACTED]	Veh# 1
23CHE-64-AC	<u>Officer</u> State Rpt/Acc. Date & Time 3001 Yes 11/12/2023 1740	<u>Location / Street Names</u> RAYMOND RD
	Operator> [REDACTED]	Veh# 1
	Passenger> [REDACTED]	Veh# 1
23CHE-65-AC	<u>Officer</u> State Rpt/Acc. Date & Time 3001 Yes 11/12/2023 1840	<u>Location / Street Names</u> JENNIFER DR
	Operator> [REDACTED]	Veh# 1
	Witness> [REDACTED]	Veh#
23CHE-66-AC	<u>Officer</u> State Rpt/Acc. Date & Time 3194 Yes 11/14/2023 1453	<u>Location / Street Names</u> 429 DERRY RD
	Operator> [REDACTED]	Veh# 1
	Operator> [REDACTED]	Veh# 2
	Operator> [REDACTED]	Veh# 3
23CHE-67-AC	<u>Officer</u> State Rpt/Acc. Date & Time 4058 Yes 11/25/2023 2046	<u>Location / Street Names</u> 328 DERRY RD
	Operator> [REDACTED]	Veh# 1
	Operator> [REDACTED]	Veh# 2
23CHE-68-AC	<u>Officer</u> State Rpt/Acc. Date & Time 4058 Yes 11/26/2023 0630	<u>Location / Street Names</u> JUST IN FROM RTE 102 ON LEFT / 34 LANE RD
	Operator> [REDACTED]	Veh# 1
23CHE-69-AC	<u>Officer</u> State Rpt/Acc. Date & Time 3195 Yes 11/29/2023 1711	<u>Location / Street Names</u> YOUR VARIETY CONVENIENCE STORE / 692 RAYMOND I
	Operator> [REDACTED]	Veh# 1
	Pedestrian> [REDACTED]	Veh# 0 Injured *
	Witness> [REDACTED]	Veh# 0

State Reports Required: 18
State Reports Not Required: 2