

**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

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

2.2 Speed Limit on Town Roads (Hemlock Ln.)

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

2.3 Any Other Old Business

None.

III. New Business

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

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

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

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

3.2 Reports from Departments

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

Town Planner Hadik: He wished to acknowledge the benchmark of what 4" of rain has caused in Town; he encouraged everyone to consider what 6" of rain might do in such heavily-saturated conditions. He received a call from a resident reporting that Whetstone Pond was diminished due 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.

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

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.

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 roofs in need of repair or replacement remain in need.

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 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 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.

TA Doda: She thanked SOR Piper for taking care of the roads throughout the storm. She 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 capable and experienced contractors readily available to them in cases like these.

The remaining representatives had nothing to report.

3.3 RADAR Trailer Maintenance

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 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.

3.4 Any Other New Business

None.

IV. Date of Next Meeting & Adjournment

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Caroline R. Wilson, Recording Secretary



Accident Status Report

Page: 1

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

12/13/2023

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

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

Accident Status Report

Page: 2

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

State Reports Required: 18
 # State Reports Not Required: 2