

TOWN OF PELHAM HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Sept. 26, 2023

The meeting was held in the Community Room at the Police Department, 14 Village Green, Pelham, NH 03076.

In attendance were the following members of the committee: Police Chief Anne Perriello, Acting Fire Chief John Ignatowicz, Highway Director Jim Hoffman, Planning Director Jenn Beauregard, and Planning Assistant Kerry Karalekas, taking minutes. Also in attendance, representing 16 Springdale Lane, was Joost Verhofstad and Joan Sweeney.

Meeting was called to order at 10:05am

16 Springdale Lane Map 23 Lot 11-343

Chief Perriello recalled that the committee had visited the property for a site walk back in February when the owner was in the process of obtaining a Variance. She reiterated some of the concerns, comments, and suggestions made at that meeting, when Fire Chief Midgley was present (details can be found in the minutes of February 9, 2023). Some of the major concerns were the width of the private road leading to the parcel in question, along with the necessity for a turnaround suitable for a fire truck. Mr. Verhofstad, owner of the subject parcel, spoke to provide an update since the site walk. He stated that there were some residents on the road that aren't happy. He stated that of Chief Midgley's concerns, three had been resolved; 1) the pine tree located roughly half way down the road, being too close to the road, has been cut down, 2) the pile of wood located near the 90 degree bend in the road, has been removed, 3) a turnaround area has been constructed on Dan Constant's parcel, 2 Springdale Lane, Map 30 Lot 11-335. Mr. Verhofstad presented a map showing the location of Springdale Lane, of how it goes behind some parcels that have frontage on Webster Avenue. He stated that none of those residents have a problem with cutting and clearing, as needed. He also stated that there are currently two homes on Springdale Lane that are under construction and that those people will not cooperate or allow cutting of any kind. And, that the Hegartys that live at 11 Springdale, will not allow him to cut the tree on their property which is very close to the road. Mr. Verhofstad suggested going out with the Fire Department to mark trees with spray paint, that need to come down, on the first portion of the road, he asked for the town's help with the part where he's running into resistance from residents. Ms. Beauregard recalled driving out to the site with Chief Midgley and then Deputy Ignatowicz, and how shocked Chief Midgley was at the state of the road. Acting Chief Ignatowicz posed the question of what authority the town has on a private road. Ms. Beauregard answered that she believes the town does not have authority to force people to comply with suggestions on how to make the road more feasible for emergency access. She also informed that the residents who have built in recent years have signed liability waivers releasing the town from liability if EMS cannot access their houses. Those waivers are signed by at least 3 Selectmen and are recorded in the Hillsborough County Registry of Deeds.

Chief Perriello suggested sending a letter, by Certified Mail, to all residents of Springdale Lane informing them of the risks they endure by living on a private road that may not give access to emergency responders, in certain situations, and the town is not liable for damages in such instances.

MOTION: (Perriello/Beauregard) The Highway Safety Committee recommends issuance of a building permit to Mr. Verhofstad as long as he signs the liability waiver.

VOTE: (4-0-0) The motion carried.

Bridge St (Rte. 38) / Old Gage Hill Road – Resident Request for a Crosswalk

Chief Perriello stated that she is not in favor of the request for a crosswalk at that location for two reasons; 1) that area is a very busy and dangerous location with very limited sight distance, especially heading north, and 2) Bridge Street / Rte. 38 is a state road that would require NHDOT approval of a crosswalk.

MOTION: (Perriello/Beauregard) To not recommend a crosswalk.

VOTE: (4-0-0) All in favor, the motion carried.

Surrey Lane (no street number) / Map 16 Lot 13-125-17 - Proposal to create a named driveway to access a new proposed house approximately 360' off the existing road.

Ms. Beauregard explained that the request originated at the Assessor's office due to the lack of an available sequential street number for addressing, and that the house proposed will be approximately 360' off Surrey Lane. She stated that these situations commonly result in a named driveway. She informed the committee that the builder had submitted three name choices being: Hedwig Lane, Burrow Lane, and Grimmauld Way, of which he preferred Burrow Lane. Assessing Assistant, Susan Snide, checked the name choice, prior to the meeting, against the current road names and found no conflicting or similar names. Mr. Hoffman stated that the town (Highway Department) will supply the first sign and after that, if the sign needs replacing it is the responsibility of the owner. Acting Chief Ignatowicz mentioned that there are new state regulations regarding cistern requirements if a certain number of dwelling units are proposed, he wasn't certain of the verbiage at the time of the meeting but stated he would look into it.

MOTION: (Perriello/Beauregard) To accept the named driveway.

VOTE: (4-0-0) All in favor, the motion carried.

Hayden Road Speeding Concerns:

Chief Perriello informed the committee that Selectmen member Kevin Cote inquired about making Hayden Road a cul-de-sac. The committee agreed that would not be the best option, and would be a huge expense to the town as well as the need to acquire land, by taking or purchase. They felt it would also just move the traffic problems to an adjacent road such as Simpson Road and/or Tallant Road. There was some general discussion about possibly installing an elliptical center island as a means of traffic calming. Also, the three way stop that had been suggested at a

previous meeting is also still an option. Chief Perriello suggested an electronic speed sign to be installed permanently to deter speeders. She also said she'd look further into traffic calming designs.

MOTION: (Perriello/Beauregard) To not recommend a cul-de-sac.

VOTE: (4-0-0) The motion carried.

MOTION: (Perriello/Beauregard) To install a permanent electronic speed sign.

VOTE: (4-0-0) The motion carried.

Mr. Hoffman updated the committee, regarding a previous request for signage on or near Peaceful Drive, by confirming that a "SLOW CHILDREN AT PLAY" (with a child symbol) sign was installed on Main Street.

MOTION: (Perriello/Beauregard) To adjourn the meeting at 11:15am.

VOTE: (4-0-0) The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Kerry Karalekas, Planning Assistant