



## *City of Rochester, New Hampshire*

CITY COUNCIL

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

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January 15, 2016

**TO:** Public Safety Committee

**REGARDING:** Public Safety Committee Meeting

There will be a Public Safety Committee meeting on **January 20, 2016** at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

### **AGENDA**

1. Approve minutes from December 16, 2015
2. Public Input
3. Gonic Crosswalk (*resident email*)
4. Franklin Street – sidewalk safety concerns (*resident letter*)
5. Betts/Cross Road Intersection Concerns (*staff update*)
6. Other

cc: Mayor and City Council  
Chief Michael Allen  
Deputy Chief Scott Dumas  
Mr. Michael Bezanson  
Ms. Laura Miller  
Ms. Lisa Clark

Public Safety Committee  
Council Chambers  
December 16, 2015  
7:00 PM

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Councilor Walker, Chairman  
Councilor Jake Collins  
Councilor Robert Gates  
Councilor Donald Hamann

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Councilor Peter Lachapelle

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Michael Bezanson, PE, City Engineer  
Deputy Chief Scott Dumas, P.D  
Councilor James Gray  
Sherry Nealy, Knight Street  
Monica St Jean

Minutes

Councilor Walker brought the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

1. Public Input

The people present at the meeting were there for items already on the agenda.

2. Gonic Traffic Concerns-Packet of Information Received/Wildcat Transit-Gonic on Street Parking Issue

Residents were present at the meeting for some of the items on the agenda so the committee changed the agenda to do those items first. Councilor Walker summarized the issue. Jim Lark of 67 Main Street was present to go over the traffic concerns; he put together a packet of concerns and possible solutions to the Wildcat Transit bus stop in Gonic. Mr. Lark stated that most of the Wildcat transit commuters drive private vehicles to the general area of the bus stops. The commuters generally park their vehicles on either side of Main Street from 51 to 71 Main Street. To reach the inbound bus stop in the morning the commuters have to cross Colby Street or Main Street without a crosswalk and there are no sidewalks so they have to walk along the side of the road or in the street to get to the stop. They stand off the edge of the paved road while waiting for the bus. In the evening the commuters leave the bus at the outbound stop. Those who park north of the stop and on the west side of Main Street cross either Colby Street or Main Street without a crosswalk to reach their vehicles. From 1 Colby Street to 68 Main

Street there is no sidewalk and they also have to walk in the street or along the edge of the road. The commuters usually wear dark clothing and it's hard to see them in the dark. Some of them have been carrying flashlights to be seen and to see where they are walking. Mr. Lark had a few suggestions that may help with the safety concerns in this area.

- Arrange for parking in the St. Leo's Church/KinderCare parking lot for the Wildcat Transit
- Arrange for parking in the lots at the Gonic Mill,
- Discontinue the bus stop at the Main Street/Colby Street intersection and have them go to the Park-and-Ride facility at Washington Street and Fillmore Boulevard.
- Move the Gonic bus stops to one of two cul-de-sacs in Gonic. There is one on Main Street across from Station 2 and one on Church Street between the Church Street/Route 125 connector and the Rochester Country Club.

Councilor Walker asked Mr. Bezanson if the Wildcat Transit was going to end soon. Mr. Bezanson said that it was mentioned at the last meeting that the funding is currently limited to this academic year. Councilor Walker said he likes the idea of the parking at the Gonic Mill and was wondering who would initiate contact with them. Mr. Bezanson suggested that someone from UNH Wildcat Transit should. Councilor Collins asked how many vehicles are parked for the transit. Mr. Lark said 5 to 6 cars. Councilor Gray asked who owns the Mill parking lot. Councilor Walker said they would have to contact the Gonic Mill to get permission. Councilor Gray said Studio 109 has parking at the Gonic Mill as well. Councilor Walker said that they could go to the Park-and-Ride Facility at Washington Street and Fillmore Boulevard. ***Councilor Haman made a motion to contact UNH regarding elimination of the Gonic bus stop and have patrons use one of the other bus stops in the City for safety concerns. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gates. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.***

### 3. Columbus Ave/Knight St. Cumberland Farms-Intersection Safety Concerns

Councilor Walker summarized the issue. Sherry Nealy lives on Knight Street and expressed concerns regarding the safety of the Knight Street/Columbus Avenue intersection. Because there is no "stop" sign for traffic exiting Cumberland Farms, her child's school bus was nearly hit by a vehicle pulling out onto Columbus Avenue without looking for oncoming traffic from Knight Street. She said there are small box trucks that park at the corner of Knight Street by Cumberland Farms that block the line-of-sight for vehicles attempting to pull out and it's dangerous. Ms. Nealy is concerned for the safety of her children when they get on the bus in the morning.

***Councilor Hamann made a motion to make Knight Street a one-way street from Columbus Avenue to Upham Street. Councilor Gates seconded the motion. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.***

4. Gonic-Main Street/Church Street/Posts Office-line of Site Concerns

Councilor Walker summarized the issue. Mr. Robert McKellar, a Gonic resident, had called City staff to express his concern regarding the line-of-sight issues when exiting the Gonic Post Office on Main Street. Councilor Walker stated that the on-street parking can be problematic. ***Councilor Gates made a motion to stripe for no parking 1 car length on either side of the Gonic Post Office driveway on Main Street for sight line reasons. The motion was seconded by Councilor Collins. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.***

5. Speed Limit Sign-Whitehouse Road

Councilor Walker summarized the issue. Anthony Lazarro of Whitehouse Road had stopped into DPW to request an additional 30 mph speed limit sign be added to Whitehouse Road in the eastbound direction. Deputy Chief Dumas said there are currently two 30 mph speed limit signs, one in each direction. Additionally, there are two 30 mph speed limit signs, one in each direction, just over the Somersworth city line. ***Councilor Gates made a motion to deny the additional 30 mph speed limit sign. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hamann. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.***

6. Route 125/Church Street Area

Councilor Walker summarized the issue. Monica St. Jean was present to hear the update of how many accidents have occurred on Route 125 and Church Street. Deputy Chief Dumas said that in the last year there was 1 accident on Church street and 2 on Route 125. It was agreed that there is not much that can be done at this time.

7. Flat Rock Bridge Road-signalization

Councilor Walker summarized the issue. Tina-Marie Nadeau of Flat Rock Bridge Road had written a letter to express her concerns regarding the safety of the Milton Road/Flat Rock Bridge Road intersection. She requested a traffic light at this intersection. Councilor Walker stated that the planned work to “tee up” the intersection should improve the situation. Mr. Bezanson stated that a recently completed corridor study of

this area recommended a traffic signal at this intersection once it is warranted. At this time the intersection does not warrant a signal.

8. Betts/Cross Road Intersection Concerns

Councilor Walker summarized the issue. Mr. Bill Mackie had submitted a letter expressing concerns regarding line-of-sight at the Betts Road/Cross Road intersection. Mr. Bezanson said that DPW had recently cleared the area of brush. He said the line-of-sight is also affected by an earthen berm, which has a large tree and a rock wall on it. Councilor Walker asked how much of the berm is in the City's right-of-way. Mr. Bezanson stated that he would look into the situation and report back to the Committee.

9. Linden Street - handicap space/sign

Councilor Walker summarized the issue. Mr. Richard Shabbat of 24D Linden Street is confined to a wheelchair and has requested a handicap parking spot in front of his apartment building. Mr. Bezanson said there are no formal on street parking spaces and no formal sidewalk in the area. It was agreed that this is a private property parking issue. Councilor Gates requested that a letter be sent to the person who made the request to talk to their landlord about providing a handicap parking spot.

10. Central Square-Handicap Accessibility

Councilor Walker summarized the issue. At the last meeting Mr. Michael Provost, Executive Director of Rochester Main Street, had requested improvements to the Central Square area that would increase handicap accessibility. Mr. Bezanson updated the Committee that he had been exploring the availability of Community Development Block Grant Funds for this project.

11. Street Lights - Davis Blvd.

Councilor Walker summarized the issue. He had checked out the street light situation on Davis Boulevard. He said that it does warrant street lights. Mr. Bezanson said that currently there is no street light at one of the two intersections with Jay Way. ***Councilor Hamann made a motion to add at least two street lights on Davis Boulevard, one on pole 216A/2Y and one on pole 216A/5; a third street light may be needed if one of these two poles is not located at the intersection of Jay Way. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gates. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.***

12. Leonard Street/Harrison Street - Stop Sign and Slow Children Sign request

Councilor Walker summarized the issue. Deputy Chief Dumas stated that there is no "stop" sign required at this intersection; a 90-degree corner in a neighborhood, such as this, is an implied stop. ***Councilor Hamann made a motion to deny the "stop" sign request. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gates. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.***

13. Other

Jake Collins wanted the Committee to know that it had been a useful, productive, and responsive committee and to keep it going.

*Brock Street and Washington Street*

Councilor Hamann said a resident has asked for the stop line to be moved back 10 feet for the vehicles that are turning left off of Brock Street, so that vehicles turning onto Brock Street have plenty of room to make the turn. Councilor Walker said that might be a problem because the sensor is placed near the lines. Mr. Bezanson said that the sensor does line up with the painted lines.

Councilor Gates made a comment on what Mr. Lark had said about the dark clothing that the people were wearing. He wanted to know what responsibility people have for their own safety.

*Roulx Street/Rochester Avenue - Stop Sign*

Councilor Gray said the "stop" sign at Roulx Street is missing again. Mr. Bezanson will have it replaced.

Councilor Walker said Patricia Leclair stated that cars speed down Washington Street making it difficult for vehicles leaving the Park-and-Ride from Fillmore Boulevard around 4:30 PM. She also sent this in an e-mail to NHDOT as well. Councilor Gates confirmed that there is an advance warning sign for the speed limit reduction on Washington Street.

*Cumberland Farms on Milton Road*

Semi trucks are creating a sight distance issue at the entrance to the new Cumberland Farms on Milton Road by parking in front just like they were at Dunkin Donuts.

***Councilor Hamann made a motion to place a "no parking or standing" sign between the Milton Road entrances of Cumberland Farms. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gates. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.***

*Autumn Street update*

Deputy Chief Dumas said that the speed trailer recorded 92,000 cars with an average speed of 30 mph; there is no chronic issue on Autumn Street.

*Harding Street*

Deputy Chief Dumas said there was some lost data due to complications with the speed trailer. 87% were going 32 mph.

*Twombly Street*

Deputy Chief Dumas said that the speed trailer recorded an average speed of 35 mph on Twombly Street; the maximum recorded speed was 63 mph. ***Councilor Hamann made a motion to install two 30 mph speed limit signs; one in each direction on Twombly Street. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gates. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.***

*201 Chestnut Hill Road - Blind Driveway Sign*

Mr. Bezanson said the blind driveway sign for 201 Chestnut Hill Road has been ordered.

*Highland/Grove Street*

Mr. Bezanson said that due to the State's jurisdiction a letter has been sent to NHDOT regarding the "No Parking Here to Corner" sign request on Highland Street at Grove Street.

*Route 202/Salmon Falls Road*

Mr. Bezanson said that the brush has been cut back on the curve between Route 202 and Salmon Falls Road.

*Whitehall Road*

Councilor Collins said the area of the crosswalk on Whitehall Road by the Frisbie Hospital parking lot is better now that there is a green sign there. Mr. Bezanson said that the temporary pedestrian sign that was previously located in the crosswalk in the middle of the street was placed there by Frisbie, and it is up to them whether they use one again in the future.

*Ten Rod Road/North Main Street*

Mr. Bezanson said the Ten Rod Road/North Main Street signal is on the schedule for the timing change.

*Franklin/Anderson Street - street light and crosswalk*

Mr. Bezanson said the street light installation has been requested and the crosswalk has been painted.

Councilor Gates thanked Councilor Walker for chairing the Public Safety Committee.

***Councilor Gates made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 PM. Councilor Hamann seconded the motion. The motioned passed unanimously.***

Minutes respectfully submitted by Laura Miller, Secretary II



**From:** [Lisa Clark](#)  
**To:** [Elizabeth Redmond](#)  
**Cc:** [Samantha Rodgerson](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Gonic Crosswalk  
**Date:** Friday, January 08, 2016 8:03:16 AM

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Thanks that was quick. I will get this to the Public Safety Committee.

Lisa J. Clark  
Office Manager  
Rochester NH DPW  
45 Old Dover Road  
Rochester NH 03867  
603-332-4096

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**From:** Elizabeth Redmond [mailto:EREDMOND@cianbro.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 08, 2016 8:02 AM  
**To:** Lisa Clark  
**Subject:** Gonic Crosswalk  
**Importance:** High

Good Morning:

I dropped my son off at the end of Railroad Avenue this morning and he started to cross the street to wait at the bus stop. A car was slowing down, did not have their blinker on, so my son was proceeding across. The car continued through the cross walk and turned left toward Gonic School, he had to stop, wait and walk around the back of the car!

This corner (Pickering Road, Main Street, Gonic/Railroad Avenue) has a painted crosswalk but is VERY dark. People drive fast through there and do not pay attention. I am proposing a blinking caution light/sign or a street light of some kind to make people aware there are children crossing. There isn't even a sign that shows the speed limit at that corner. I don't think a crossing guard will work because it is so dark.



Please let me know if something can be done quickly – I am very concerned about this issue – my son came too close to being struck by a car this morning!

Thank you for your time,

**Elizabeth Redmond**

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Dear Mr. Varney,

Just wanted to Thank You for after 6 years of my asking for a Crosswalk on Franklin St to Anderson Lane., it was done this week!!! ( Might be just a coincidence that the Mayor recently moved there.) There are so many young families and Teenagers who use that area regularly. I do think there should be a warning on the street right before the knoll, today, I walked up and my knowing people wouldn't stop, I did, I would have been killed both ways from cars speeding down the street from the Maine side. I noticed that yesterday when teenagers were crossing, . Two weeks ago a speeding car hit a pedestrian before she hit a tree head on, not a pretty sight.

My other concern is that the sidewalk on Anderson Lane just had all the brush and trees cut along the walk that impeded the walkers, I have asked that be done from 100 Franklin St to 116 because walkers need to duck to avoid branches or walk off the walk onto the street, not safe, I have trimmed a few of them myself, so I am very surprised that it was done only on Anderson Lane, as all walkers, even Senior citizens and Moms with strollers walk from the Lane down Franklin to the town. Why would only part be cleaned and trimmed? The walk is heavily used, school kids walking to school, teenagers with their buddies, many Seniors and young families. It's a safe, from speeding cars, wonderful walk.

Thanks,



Dot Callaghan  
108 Franklin St  
Rochester