



Town of Amherst, NH

Highway Safety Committee

Wednesday, January 4, 2023

1 Attendees: Chief Ciampoli, DPW Director Eric Slosek, Fire Chief Matt Conley;
2 Selectman John D'Angelo; Superintendent Mike Berry
3 Residents present: Jeanne Ludt, Bill Ludt and Doug Chabinsky

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5 **1. Call to Order**

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7 **2. Citizen's Forum**

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9 **3. Boston Post Rd.** – Several known issues are noise pollution, no through trucks,
10 increase in truck traffic over the years, perceived speed and pedestrian safety.
11 Nashua Regional Planning did conduct a study and Boston Post Rd and New
12 Boston Rd were well within the averages found on other local roads. The
13 recommendation was to reduce truck traffic and consider creating an ordinance
14 regulating truck traffic on all public roads that are duly signed. The
15 recommendation does not seem to be evidentiary based. Eric Slosek states that
16 he hasn't seen any data to support this. Chief Ciampoli has not seen any data
17 either and if that was available that would certainly be helpful to them for
18 today's purposes. Chief Ciampoli states that a no through trucking ordinance
19 would require previous knowledge of a vehicle passing through, you would have
20 to know that they had not already stopped somewhere before you saw them, and
21 you would also have to know that they would make it through the zone without
22 stopping somewhere else. The only way to combat that would be to station a
23 vehicle at both ends. The town attorney's feedback was this; enforcement of a
24 "No through truck" ordinance is tough, there is little guidance in the state statutes
25 and that he couldn't find any NH cases that are on point. Any restriction is
26 generally discriminatory in nature and arguably frustrates general public use.

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28 Chief Ciampoli feels that the Town does need to have a reasonable basis to
29 restrict truck traffic, but it can be something other than weight. Chief Ciampoli
30 would also recommend an ordinance limiting the use of air brakes. This would
31 be easier to enforce. "No Through Trucks" signs/ordinances need to have a
32 weight limit posted. Ponemah Hill Rd. is in compliance, it is a weight restricted
33 ordinance. If trucks had to take an alternate route other than Boston Post Rd.
34 (2.9 miles) the shortest route would be New Boston Rd. (4.4 miles),
35 Lyndeborough Rd. or Amherst St. to Route 13 (5.9 miles).

36 Chief Ciampoli does have an ordinance from a nearby town that does include the
37 weight limit (26000lbs.) This is the same weight as a DPW 6-wheeler truck.
38 Waivers for hardship can be issued by the Board of Selectman. Most complaints
39 are in reference to the engine noise and air brakes, not the weight. There is an
40 ordinance from Hanover which is restrictive 24 hrs. a day. They did add “except
41 in an emergency.” Not every Town outright prohibited truck traffic. There are
42 some towns that limit trucks during certain hours.

43
44 Eric Slosek states that in terms of the noise ordinance, without discussing no
45 through trucking, he thinks that makes complete sense. The facts that were
46 pointed out, it’s a flat area, there aren’t any hills or topographical challenging
47 areas, (short of an emergency) it would make sense to help mitigate the noise
48 concerns. The no through trucking: The board of Selectman is asking them to
49 determine if they should or should not have “No Through Trucking” through the
50 village and would like to know what the deciding factors for the decision would
51 be. Eric’s comments were looking at Chief Reams’s traffic study, they were able
52 to lower 85% of traffic speed by 5 mph. bringing the speed to 33 mph. He
53 understands some of the concerns being made, he can’t support it on the
54 evidence he has seen. If they close Boston Post Rd to trucks, those trucks have to
55 go somewhere, doubling their trip. Chief Ciampoli asks if the time prohibition
56 was part of the ordinance it would lessen to Towns exposure for liability. Eric
57 would consider supporting “No Through Trucks” for a certain period of time
58 overnight. Chief Ciampoli states that the evidence is more towards noise. He
59 didn’t come up with speed or traffic as reasons and absent those factors the
60 attorney really pushed toward the noise. He’s not sure there is support right
61 now for full prohibition.

62
63 Matt Conley asks about the devices that are available to do a count of vehicles
64 and can they tell you the number of axles? Does it also include timestamps? No,
65 timestamping is not going to be available. John D’Angelo thinks that there should
66 be an ordinance preventing engine braking in that section of town. That is a
67 pretty flat section of road before you get to the 25MPH zone. That would be a
68 separate ordinance from the rest. As far as “No Through Trucks”, the attorney’s
69 advice at the time was that it wouldn’t be enforceable. He thinks that if the town
70 is going to do this, he believes there should be a weight limit, and would start it
71 high (40,000 lbs.) and bring it down rather than start low and receive
72 complaints from people driving 6-wheel dump trucks. Between the noise
73 restriction and the weight limit and restricting the time (Chief Campoli has seen
74 a lot of 8pm to 12am), it would seem reasonable to him. The fact that there
75 weren’t any tickets recently given to CDL drivers makes him believe that we
76 don’t have a truck problem. So, banning trucks isn’t going to help the speed
77 thing, but it will reduce the noise.

78 Chief Ciampoli makes a motion that the recommendation be that we draft an
79 ordinance that there would be no engine braking 24/7 on Boston Post Rd. from
80 the New Boston Rd. split to Amherst St. traffic lights, excluding Town vehicles.
81 This motion is seconded by John D'Angelo. Vote Chief Ciampoli yea, Eric Slosek;
82 yea, Mike Berry; yea, Matt Conley; yea, John D'Angelo; yea. Motion passes 5-0.

83
84 Eric makes a motion that they recommend a draft ordinance for "No Through
85 Trucking" to be inclusive of Boston Post Rd. from the lights on Amherst St. to the
86 Town line on Mont Vernon Rd., New Boston Rd., in its entirety, and
87 Lyndeborough Rd. in its entirety, to be in effect from 8pm to 8 am with a weight
88 limit of 40,000 lbs. ish. John D'Angelo proposed a change to clarify that the
89 motion served only to "draft" an ordinance for consideration by the committee,
90 not to "recommend" an ordinance to the BOS at this point.

91
92 This motion was seconded by John D'Angelo. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

93 **Chestnut Hill Road Petition:** Chief Ciampoli visited a resident on Chestnut Hill and
94 witnessed vehicles traveling around 45 or 50 MPH in the lower section. Eric asked if
95 there are any reports of accidents on that road. Chief Ciampoli states that there aren't
96 any. Discussion follows regarding truck traffic and the sharp turns along the road. He
97 also asks if there are any studies that can be done? Eric states that they would need a
98 traffic engineer, there are a few working for the Town that could give us an estimate
99 for a study. Eric doesn't think it would be a large amount of money, but whereas it is a
100 Highway Safety Committee request and not a DPW request it should go before the
101 Town Administrator for approval. The study should focus on looking at the hair pin
102 turn and a vehicle cannot stay in their lane.

103
104 **Grater Rd. Complaint:** Two residents have complained about the speed on this
105 road. The speed limit on Grater Rd is 35 mph, by statute. Eric would agree to a
106 30mph posting. The Chief will do a speed study and discuss it at the next meeting.

107
108 John D'Angelo moved to approve the meeting minutes as presented from the last
109 meeting. Matt Conley seconds the motion, all in favor, motion passes.

110
111 The Chief makes a motion to include Merrimack Rd., Austin Rd., and
112 Courthouse Rd. in their consideration for "No through Trucking", they would be
113 different as they would be 24/7 and then would amend the absence of weight
114 restriction. Eric Slosek seconds this motion, all in favor, motion passes.

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116 John D'Angelo made a motion to adjourn at 3:20. Seconded by Chief Ciampoli.
117 Motion passes.

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