



TOWN OF HUDSON

Highway Department

2 Constitution Drive Hudson, New Hampshire 03051 603/886-6018 Fax 603/594-1143



HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMITTEE

AGENDA

December 7, 2022

BOS MEETING ROOM 8:00 AM

Members: Police Chief – Tad Dionne
Fire Chief – Scott Tice
Public Works Director – Jess Forrence, Chairman
Town Engineer – Elvis Dhima
Planning Board Representative – Brian Groth

Old Business:

New Business: Dead End sign request on Coll Street
Stop sign request on Rite Ave @ Rena Ave
Wason Road parking/turn around area
ARPA funds for safety items
Crosswalk light beacons on Route 102 by Hill Garrison
Elect a new Chairman for Highway Safety Committee

12/7/22

Chartier, Cheryl

From: Forrence, Jess
Sent: Thursday, December 1, 2022 8:05 AM
To: Chartier, Cheryl
Subject: Highway Safety Comm

Good Afternoon Jay

I am a resident in the Ridgecrest Neighborhood (behind Walmart).

This morning I had an encounter that I have had several times at the intersection of Rita Ave and Rena Ave. There is no stop sign coming from Rita onto Rena and it is dangerous. This morning, it was a school bus not stopping and just driving onto Rena as if they had the right of way. Basic traffic education tells me that they should have the stop sign at the end of Rita and cars approaching Lowell Rd driving on Rena should not have to stop or yield here. I see this happening quite often as I am sure many residents in the neighborhood do.

Could you please look into this or forward my email to the correct person to look into this? I am more than willing to have a further discussion about this if my email seems unclear.

Thank you

Amy Larose
978-259-3669

Jess Forrence
Public Works Director
2 Constitution Dr
Tell #(603 886-6018
Fax # (603 594-1143



Town of Hudson
NEW HAMPSHIRE 03051

HSC 12/17/22

Chartier, Cheryl

From: Forrence, Jess
Sent: Tuesday, November 8, 2022 7:15 AM
To: Chartier, Cheryl
Subject: FW: Fatality on Wason Road Hudson, NH

Please add to the Highway Safety Meeting on Dec 7

Jess Forrence
Public Works Director
2 Constitution Dr
Tell #(603 886-6018
Fax # (603 594-1143



From: Forrence, Jess
Sent: Tuesday, November 8, 2022 7:14 AM
To: Gagnon, Brett <bgagnon@hudsonnh.gov>; Dhima, Elvis <edhima@hudsonnh.gov>
Cc: Dionne, Tad <tdionne@hudsonnh.gov>; Malizia, Steve <smalizia@hudsonnh.gov>; Roy, Kara <kroy@hudsonnh.gov>
Subject: RE: Fatality on Wason Road Hudson, NH

I will put this on the December 7th Highway Safety Committee agenda for discussion.
Thanks

Jess Forrence
Public Works Director
2 Constitution Dr
Tell #(603 886-6018
Fax # (603 594-1143



From: Gagnon, Brett <bgagnon@hudsonnh.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 7, 2022 7:27 PM
To: Forrence, Jess <jforrence@hudsonnh.gov>; Dhima, Elvis <edhima@hudsonnh.gov>
Cc: Dionne, Tad <tdionne@hudsonnh.gov>; Malizia, Steve <smalizia@hudsonnh.gov>; Roy, Kara <kroy@hudsonnh.gov>
Subject: RE: Fatality on Wason Road Hudson, NH

Jess and Elvis,

Recently, during public input at one of our BOS meetings we heard from Mr Smith. He had a very polished statement backed with some interesting research and interviews. What boiled to the top for me was his thought about a small parking lot/ turn around area on Wason Rd specifically for police traffic enforcement (i.e. radar/laser speed checking). Living on Wason rd myself, I often look at the land outlined below. There is one or two level "plateau's" that look like they could be suited for this type of project with minimal effort.

My request to you;

1. Is a small parking lot for maybe two cars possible to construct in this area? (see general GIS image below)
2. How much approximately would it cost to cut the trees, level a small section and build a dirt parking lot? I know the budgets are tight, but maybe we can plan for this down the road or even find grants and donations to cover something like this.

If I am not mistaken, Chief Dionne said this could be a helpful tool for traffic enforcement in an area that otherwise has no other real options.

Would love to hear your thoughts, opinions and professional input.

Sincerely,

Your Hudson NH Selectman and Right To Know NH advocate

Brett Gagnon

Brett Gagnon

From: Gagnon, Brett

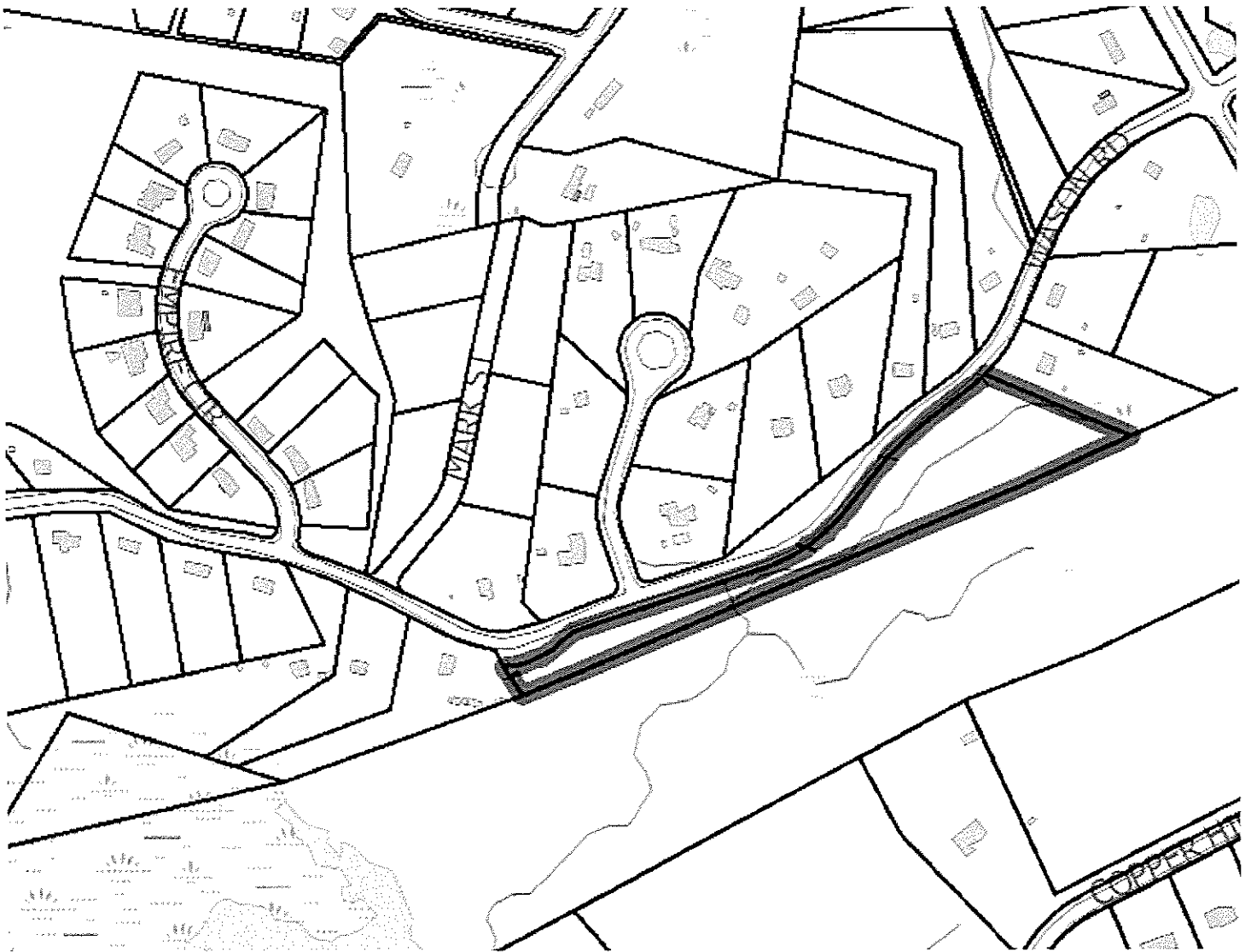
Sent: Thursday, November 3, 2022 4:20 PM

To: Smith, Robinson <robinson.smith@snhu.edu>

Subject: Re: Fatality on Wason Road Hudson, NH

Mr Smith,

Forgive me, you are correct. I didnt realize the town owned a small strip of land between wason road and the circumferential highway. That would make it easier to carry out your idea.



<https://gis.hudsonnh.gov/>

Did the police chief say that a police parking area in that location would be helpful or valuable? Let me see if I can get some buy in on the idea. If people think its worth while, I would be happy to put together a proposal with you for real consideration. Building a small parking lot on town land right off wason road shouldn't honestly be too hard in my mind, but lets see.

As a side note; I live on Wason rd and I am very familiar with the ATV trails around here. I am also a father, so I hear and understand your concerns and perspectives.

Sincerely,

Your Hudson NH Selectman and Right To Know NH advocate

Brett Gagnon

Brett Gagnon

Town Of Hudson NH & Right To Know NH

We are not afraid to follow truth wherever it may lead, nor to tolerate any error

so long as reason is left free to combat it. - Thomas Jefferson

From: Smith, Robinson <robinson.smith@snhu.edu>
Sent: Thursday, November 3, 2022 3:45:17 PM
To: Gagnon, Brett
Cc: Dionne, Tad; Laffin, Jill
Subject: Re: Fatality on Wason Road Hudson, NH

EXTERNAL: Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Selectmen Gagnon,

When reviewing the land parcel with the town engineer this plot was earmarked on GIS as "Town of Hudson". What I couldn't tell you is if this earmarking is due to the proximity to state land? This area would however seem to be an ideal potential turnaround which the chief of police was expressing a need for. Also having a project with low environmental impact, and allowing ease of access would help prevent kids from spilling out onto wason road.

The chief of police stated that there are no public areas in the town for off road vehicles. As such they don't support the area used in this capacity. One of my suggestions to the chief was a PSA for the high school and junior high students. This could be put together easily with a scheduled meet and greet auditorium detail with one of our officers presenting a sideshow reflecting the state /town laws and trail accidents to riders etc.

From my perspective as a parent, there is a balancing act when providing access to wholesome activities for the kids. It's a bit of a Grey area with kids using dirt bikes and atv's etc., but hopefully we can prevent the influence of narcotics in our community and state. I think we can all agree the town doesnt want a peak in the drug epidemic in our schools or community.

I would be happy too entertain oversight of the project considering my MBA with a concentration in project management. As far as the scope of a presentation, I'm not sure what would be considered necessary for the town needs to move forward etc. Possibly the town engineer and yourself could provide guidance in this capacity?

I apologize for the tone of the presentation this week, but after bringing my concerns forward for many years, very little has been done. The kids in the accident on Dublin in Nashua I went to school with. This is one reason the accident on wason is so personal to our family. Our town at its lowest level of government should always listen to the communities concerns, especially of those that impact safety. This is with the hope that we can collectively develop solutions and prevent tragedies from happening.

Respectfully,

Robinson Smith
48 Burns Hill Road
Hudson, NH 03051
(603)305-1841

From: Gagnon, Brett <bgagnon@hudsonnh.gov>
Sent: Thursday, November 3, 2022 9:11 AM
To: Smith, Robinson <robinson.smith@snhu.edu>
Cc: Dionne, Tad <tdionne@hudsonnh.gov>; Laffin, Jill <jlaffin@hudsonnh.gov>
Subject: Re: Fatality on Wason Road Hudson, NH

Mr Smith,

I want to thank you again for your input at this weeks Board of Selectmen meeting. I applaud all the work you have done reaching out to our department heads in search of a solution. With that said, your idea about a police parking/turn around area on Wason rd is interesting. Was this your idea, or did you talk about this to anyone else in terms of plausibility? I believe you incorrectly stated that the land was "town owned" during your public input. I think that land is actually owned by the state (NHDOT) and is slated for the circumferential highway. Regardless of your support or rejection of that project, I don't see why NHDOT wouldn't allow a dirt area to be built for police officers as a "temporary" solution. If the highway ever comes blaring through, they could easily bulldoze right over the dirt pad in the future.

Is this something you would want to work on researching and building a presentation for? I would be happy to assist you as needed. Let me know your thoughts.

Sincerely,
Your Hudson NH Selectman and Right To Know NH advocate

Brett Gagnon

Brett Gagnon
Town Of Hudson NH & Right To Know NH

We are not afraid to follow truth wherever it may lead, nor to tolerate any error so long as reason is left free to combat it. - Thomas Jefferson

From: Dionne, Tad
Sent: Tuesday, October 4, 2022 6:37 AM
To: Smith, Robinson
Cc: ~BoS; Timothy Malley; Buxton, Robert; Groth, Brian; William.Lambert@dot.nh.gov; Bob.Greene@leg.state.nh.us; rep.alicia.lekas@gmail.com; rep.tony.lekas@gmail.com; Hershel.Nunez@leg.state.nh.us; Lynne Ober; thud007@hotmail.com; Andrew.Prout@leg.state.nh.us; andrew.renzullo@leg.state.nh.us; Kimberly Rice; Denise.Smith@leg.state.nh.us; replery@comcast.net; HPD-WMUR Channel 9; Forrence, Jess; Bianchi, Dave
Subject: Re: Fatality on Wason Road Hudson, NH

Thank you Mr. Smith.

The community has just begun grieving this extremely tragic incident. This will be tough on everyone for quite some time.

While I agree with much that you say about Wason Road, many NH communities have the exact same issue. An issue which does need continue examination, however we are still investigating the cause of this collision.

Although the road design may contribute a little because there is a moderate to sharp bend, it is not cause of this crash. There are more obvious factors to this. However the investigation is not over yet.

Respectfully,

Tad Dionne
Chief of Police

Sent from my iPhone

> On Oct 4, 2022, at 2:03 AM, Smith, Robinson <robinson.smith@snhu.edu> wrote:

>
> EXTERNAL: Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

> Good Morning,

> I am writing to you today concerning the fatal accident of a 15 year old minor riding a dirt bike along with their passenger currently under critical care in an ICU. Our community is grieving the loss of the Alvirne student who had perished on a dangerous blind curve entering or exiting recreational trails last Sunday.

> Our family was actually in the process of going to a local orchard to pick apples, when we noticed wason road was closed by our local police. The road has become an extremely dangerous thoroughfare with vehicles frequently crossing the double yellow lines, due to traffic speeding combined with the extreme sharp turns throughout. These crossings are even more obvious by seeing where the yellow lines have disappeared due to the frequent vehicles wandering into the opposite lanes. The road was utilized as a thoroughfare once an intersection with stop lights allowed easy use of the road as a bypass from the now, built up Lowell road and subsequent multiple lights installed at intersections.

> The town has been well aware of the traffic issues for many years and has tried to secure funding for a bypass highway to alleviate these dangerous driver and pedestrian hazards. This has resulted to the bypass highway being placed on the 10 year state dot projected plan timeframe and then removed at one point. Our family is extremely concerned of pedestrian safety having a 5 year old child living in the area of burns hill road, which is inadequately patrolled allowing vehicles to drive regularly 45 mph in a posted 30mph zone. We have even asked the school bus driver to pick up our son at a different location due to the unregulated traffic that has no regard for the safety of pedestrians near or on the road.

> In the past we have requested traffic calming devices to be installed along the road as a proactive measure, which unfortunately fell on deaf ears. Suggestions of radar feedback signs, speed humps, and a host of other calming devices were requested without any action. We have called the local police station for patrols in the area, which results in several hours of patrol and then requiring frequent additional calls to return and manage the speeding traffic again.

> The fatality of a 15 year old minor reinforces the dangers of the area. This also reveals the need to petition our elected representation for assistance. I am hopeful we can collectively work together as a team to prevent additional grief and fatalities in our community moving forward.

> Our family is asking for your assistance in developing a plan to mitigate the existing hazards on wason road, along with the surrounding area roadways. I feel strongly that a long and short term plan would entail immediate traffic calming solutions placed in use, along with a long term strategy such as building the hudson boulevard/ circumvential highway which was initially envisioned over 70 years ago. And finally we feel, with the grieving parents approval, the program to manage these issues should be named in memory and respect of the child who had perished. He had his whole life ahead of him, transitioning into adulthood at the young age of 15 and was killed by oncoming traffic. Yes he wasn't wearing a helmet, and yes he was operating an off road dirt bike in a roadway, but he was still a child, surely not knowing the impact of these decisions at such a young age. If we can prevent even one more fatality and prevent pain and suffering of another grieving family, I feel the community and state as a whole has made the right decision.

> Thank you for your time and service to the Town of Hudson and its residents...

>
> Kind Regards,

>
> Robinson Smith
> 48 Burns Hill Road
> Hudson, NH 03051
> 603 305 1841

>

Dec 7th

Highway Safety Committee Meeting for Dec 7th

Talk about using **ARPA Money** for safety items.

Replacing 4 – very old 20mph signs on Lowell Road from electric to solar power.

Adding 2 permanently mounted electric speed signs along Wason Rd \$\$\$???

Talk with Brian Goth about sidewalks and pedestrians crosswalks lights along Lowell Rd at Riverside, Winn Ave and Roosevelt Ave.

Elect a new Chairman

12/7/22

Chartier, Cheryl

From: Forrence, Jess
Sent: Tuesday, October 11, 2022 12:29 PM
To: Groth, Brian
Cc: Chartier, Cheryl
Subject: RE: highway safety committee

This will be added to December 7th Highway Safety meeting

Jess Forrence
Public Works Director
2 Constitution Dr
Tell #(603 886-6018
Fax # (603 594-1143



From: Groth, Brian <bgroth@hudsonnh.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 11, 2022 12:26 PM
To: Forrence, Jess <jforrence@hudsonnh.gov>
Subject: highway safety committee

Hi Jess,

For the next Highway Safety Committee meeting can you add crosswalk light beacons on 102 by hills garrison elementary to the agenda?

Thank you
Brian