

A meeting of the Durham Public Safety Committee was held Sunday, February 19, 2006 at the intersection of Old Blue Hills Road and Cherry Lane for the purpose of a site visit to address complaints the committee has received concerning traffic flow and potential safety hazards. Present were Frank DeFelice, Bill Smith, Jim Rossi and John Szewczyk. After the visit and discussion, it is the committee opinion that the intersection should be modified in the following manner:

1) The present south end of Cherry Lane widens considerably at the intersection and does not have a stop sign. The committee proposes that reducing the width of the road from its present width of 40', 3" to 32' and installing a stop sign within clear view of Old Blue Hills Road will result in the following benefits: A) It will stop traffic from diagonally crossing the Old Blue Hills Road traffic flow, allowing for a smoother flow from each road. B) It will force cars exiting Madison Road to slow down and make a 90 degree turn to enter Cherry Lane. C) Retain an alternate traffic route around Main Street in case of accident or emergency.

2) The Sand Hill Road/Dead Hill Road side of the intersection is adequate as is but the committee has one suggestion to improve safety. At present, on the southbound side of Madison Road, just north of Sand Hill, is a mound of dirt on the side of the road that blocks vision of the oncoming lane. The committee recommends that the dirt be removed to allow clear vision of oncoming traffic.

3) In the longer term, the sight line at the stop sign from Old Blue Hills Road onto the Madison Road looking north should be cut back. This would have to be a CT DOT project, since it is on a state road. The present location of the sign and the view of traffic traveling south is, in our opinion, inadequate for the traffic flow the road now carries.