



TOWN OF BEDFORD

HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

March 23, 2021

Via Zoom

Due to the Coronavirus crisis and in accordance with Governor Sununu's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, the Highway Safety Committee (HSC) is using the Zoom platform to conduct this meeting electronically. Please note that there is no physical location for this meeting and the BCTV building is closed to the public.

The Town of Bedford is providing public access to the meeting live on BCTV, streaming at www.Bedfordnh.org/393/BCTV, and by calling into the meeting. Please email crobinson@bedfordnh.org or call 603-792-1333 to receive the Zoom call-in information.

(HSC) staff will also be accepting questions and comments by email at jbryfonski@bedfordnh.org. Please notify staff by email if there are technological issues during the meeting.

I. Call to Order: 7:15 A.M.

II. Quorum Count: Section 3.4 Requires 5 Committee Members.

- A. Roll Call of Members Present.
 - Chief John Bryfonski, Chair/Present
 - Chief Scott Hunter, Vice-Chair/Present
 - Dir. Jeff Foote, DPW/Present
 - TC Radke, TC Member/Present
 - TC Murphy, TC Alternate/Present
 - Bill Jean, Resident/Present
 - Madonna Lovett Repeta, Resident/Present
 - Gerry Gagne, ALT Resident/Present
 - Ken Peterson, ALT Resident/Present
 - Anne Wiggin __ School Transportation Coordinator - Absent
- B. Seeing a quorum is present; the HSC may proceed with business

III. Approval of Minutes

- A. Motion by Madonna Lovett Repeta to approve the minutes from the September 24, 2019 meeting, second Ken Peterson. Vote taken by Roll Call; All in favor. Abstentions: Councilor Radke, Councilor Murphy, and resident Bill Jean.

IV. Organizational Meeting:

A. Election of Chair—

- 1. Nominations: Chief John. J. Bryfonski by Madonna Lovett Repeta

2. VOTE: Second by Ken Peterson. All in favor – Vote taken by roll call; all in favor; no abstentions.

B. Election of Vice-Chair---

1. Nominations: Chief Scott Hunter by Madonna Lovett Repeta

2. VOTE: Second by Ken Peterson. All in favor – Vote taken by roll call; all in favor; no abstentions.

V. Correspondence/Communications

1. NOTHING TO REPORT

VI. Sub Committee Reports

1. None-

VII. New Business:

A. Request for Crosswalk Joppa Hill Road at Joppa Hill Farm:

1. Town Council Chair Dave Gilbert: Town Council Chair Gilbert approached Chief Bryfonski some weeks ago with his concerns for the safety of pedestrians and operators due to the increased number of vehicles and pedestrians parking and crossing Joppa Hill Road from the parking lot across the street from the farm. Anecdotally, Joppa Hill Road, a long straight away between North Amherst and the farm is known for excessive speed. The Police Department has been running directed patrols for speed enforcement over the past two weeks. In the past, the Department also placed our radar trailer on Joppa Hill Road in the vicinity of the farm and sports fields to slow traffic.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Gilbert: According to Chairman Gilbert, JHF volunteers and visitors utilize the parking lot located directly across Joppa Hill Road from the JHF. Chairman Gilbert indicated that although Joppa Hill Road is posted 35 miles per hour (MPH), the road is straight for approximately one-half mile from the intersection of Joppa Hill Road at North Amherst Road to approximately 116 Joppa Hill Road to the north. Thus, motor vehicles traffic routinely exceed the posted speed limit creating a safety hazard for pedestrians and vehicles crossing Joppa Hill Road from JHF to/from the parking lot across the street. Chairman Gilbert indicated the parking lot is used routinely by JFH volunteers because composting area for the JHF is located adjacent to the parking lot.

DISCUSSION

Chief Bryfonski: The Bedford Police Department is historically aware of excessive speed on Joppa Hill Road between the intersection of Joppa Hill Road and North Amherst Road and the intersection of Joppa Hill Road and Perry Road largely due to the flat straightaway between those intersections. Despite routine speed enforcement activity

by the Police Department and placement of the Department's radar speed measuring units, speed in excess of 50 MPH on the section of Joppa Hill Road near the JHF is unfortunately not rare.

Mr. Gagne: This crosswalk would be mid road not at an intersection?

Mr. Gilbert: Correct.

Ms. Lovett Repeta: This is a blind area with the hill behind it, signage is also recommended.

Mr. Peterson: Very much in favor. Question to Director Foote. Is there such a thing as a crosswalk ahead sign?

Director Foote: Yes. In addition to signage and striping we need to look into the ADA requirements for a crosswalk. This is a little more in depth and yes there will be some signage at the crosswalk and also crosswalk ahead signs.

Mr. Peterson: Rough estimate to install a crosswalk?

Director Foote: No idea at this time.

Chief Hunter: What are the rules for crosswalks?

Director Foote: Perpendicular.

Chief Hunter: I am advocating for signage up and down the hill as you approach the area also, what are the options for lighting on the signs and what would be the cost of this project.

Ms. Lovett Repeta: Another consideration would be the location of the signage; many cars are parked on the east side of the road past Perry Rd. plus pedestrians walking etc.

Mr. Jean: I am in support of the crosswalk. How do we identify the cost and how will it be funded?

1. **MOTION** – Mr. Ken Peterson, HSC Member (Resident/Alternate), moved the HSC recommend a crosswalk be installed on Joppa Hill Road at JHF to the overflow parking lot with appropriate cautionary signage and cautionary warning lights left to the discretion of the Town Council and Town Manager contingent upon funding. Seconded by Mr. Bill Jean, HSC Member (Resident).
Vote taken by Roll call - Motion Passed. Councilor Murphy abstained.

1. **DISCUSSION on MOTION** –

Chief Bryfonski: Will send a memorandum to Rick Sawyer, Town Manager and to Director Foote for the recommendation of a crosswalk at Joppa Hill Farm.

Councilor Radke: The Department of Treasury might come out with some money for The American Rescue Plan, this may be something that this project will fall under. Will follow up with Rick Sawyer, Town Manager.

IX. Comments or Concerns:

1. **Community Announcements:**

- a. Clean Up Bedford Day is April 17th CUB cleanup day on April 17th, 2021
With the help of Public Works, the Town of Bedford, and the Bedford Town Council along with help from the Rotary, Bedford's Men's Club, Bedford HS, Bedford SAU25, and many other organizations we are planning to clean the roads of Bedford. The goal of this day is to "Clean UP Bedford" and hopefully start a process that through the residents to keep our community clean. There will be 4 spots in town to pick up the "blue" bags for the cleanup. The safety complex, town office, the Farm at Joppa Hill, and at the town Transfer Station. Bags can be dropped back off at the Transfer Station but the Bedford DPW will work to pick up bags after the 17th.

Some important points to remember to have a SAFE CUB Day:

- Do NOT pick up sharps, that is any needles or items that would constitute or appear to be hazardous waste
 - Stay OFF the traveled portion of the roads and streets.
 - Wear highly visible clothing.
 - Park well off the pavement if using a car.
 - Do Not CROSS the roads/streets.
 - Be careful of oncoming traffic.
- b. Drug Take Back Day: Saturday April 24 10A-2P; Bedford Police Department lobby; drug take back box available 24/7/365; bring your unused, unwanted prescription drugs (no sharps, liquids, or aerosols) to the Bedford Police Department for safe disposal.

2. **Highway Safety:**

- a. Some highway safety related data for 2020 noting that according to the most recent data, the average number of miles driven in 2020 was DOWN 13% nationally largely if not exclusively due to the pandemic.
- b. Bedford Highway Safety Recap: Despite the pandemic and the short period when traffic volume was low during late March and early April as the state largely shut down, the Bedford Police Department continued our focus on traffic safety. Here's the breakdown:

BEDFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT							
	2019	2020	Difference	2019	2020	Difference	Pct +/-
Category:	Dec.	Dec.		YTD	YTD		
Calls for Service	657	607	-50	8353	7339	-1014	-12.1394
Self-Initiated Calls	2765	3451	686	35003	43529	8526	24.35791
Total Incident Reports	3422	4058	636	43356	50868	7512	17.32632
Total Calls handled by CC	3722	4366	644	47040	54161	7121	15.13818
Crime Stats:							
Arrests:							
Adult	54	50	-4	725	633	-92	-12.6897
Juvenile	3	3	0	41	27	-14	-34.1463
Assaults:							
Simple	1	3	2	65	21	-44	-67.6923
Domestic Calls	5	8	3	104	100	-4	-3.84615
Sexual Assaults	3	0	-3	18	9	-9	-50
Other Assault	0	0	0	5	4	-1	-20
Burglaries:							
Residential	0	0	0	3	0	-3	-100
Commercial	1	0	-1	6	5	-1	-16.6667
Attempted	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Thefts:							
Willful concealment	3	2	-1	76	41	-35	-46.0526
Theft from a motor vehicle	0	7	7	23	39	16	69.56522
Theft all other	9	12	3	124	98	-26	-20.9677
Misc. Crimes:							
Criminal Mischief	0	3	3	70	58	-12	-17.1429
Disorderly Conduct	7	6	-1	150	156	6	4
Drug Violations	10	7	-3	114	88	-26	-22.807
Fraud/Counterfeit	4	10	6	79	51	-28	-35.443
Harassment	4	4	0	21	19	-2	-9.52381
Internet Crime	0	0	0	14	7	-7	-50
Sex Offender Registration	4	3	-1	33	35	2	6.060606
Robberies	0	0	0	3	0	-3	-100
Homicide	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Highway Safety:							
Accidents	46	26	-20	553	297	-256	-46.2929
Fatal	0	0	0	2	0	-2	-100
Injury	2	1	-1	54	39	-15	-27.7778
Pedestrian	0	0	0	4	1	-3	-75
Motor Vehicle Activity:							
MV Summons Issued	214	265	51	3290	3601	311	9.452888
MV Warnings Issued	384	528	144	6733	5625	-1108	-16.4563
Parking Tickets Issued	7	1	-6	45	20	-25	-55.5556
MV Complaints	37	40	3	684	523	-161	-23.538
DWI's	13	5	-8	129	74	-55	-42.6357
Community Policing:							
Business	9	1	-8	50	43	-7	-14
Senior Citizens	1	0	-1	8	10	2	25
Juvenile	2	2	0	45	64	19	42.22222
Neighborhood	1	0	-1	12	7	-5	-41.6667
Other	1	0	-1	5	10	5	100
Safe School	15	1	-14	147	41	-106	-72.1088

- c. Spring and warmer and better weather is reflected on our roads and streets:
 - You probably noted the increase in traffic volume-have patience
 - More people are walking and biking – watch out for walkers and bicyclists.
 - Walkers/Joggers:
 - Walk/Jog against traffic
 - Wear reflective high visibility clothing even during the day
 - Stay off the pavement and on the shoulder
 - Pay attention to oncoming traffic and be ready to avoid.
 - Bicyclists:
 - Rules of road
 - Wear a helmet
 - Wear high visibility clothing and use warning lights
 - Motor Vehicle Operators:
 - Watch your speed because the Bedford Police are
 - Aggressive speed enforcement by the Department continues
 - Obey all signals-one traffic signal cycle is not worth a crash
 - Don't Text and Drive-it's the #1 cause of all crashes in Bedford; we doubled the number of distracted driving summonses issued and we will double it again this year.
 - Watch out for MOTORCYCLES
 - Watch out for walkers/jogger and bicyclists giving at least 3 feet clearance for a bicycle and another foot for every 10 MPH above 30.
 - Don't drink and drive or use marijuana and drive we have an aggressive DUI program
 - MOVE OVER LAW – give our officers a break and obey the move over law it could save their life.

IX. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn was accepted.

Note: "Any person with a disability who wishes to attend this public meeting and needs to be provided a reasonable accommodation in order to participate, please call the Committee's Secretary, Ms. Robinson, at 792-1333, at least 72 hours in advance so arrangements can be made."

Police Chief, John Bryfonski – Chair
Fire Chief, Scott Hunter – Vice Chair
Public Works, Jeff Foote - Director
Town Councilor, Lori Radke
Town Councilor/Alternate: Kelleigh Murphy
Resident, Bill Jean
Resident, Madonna Lovett Repeta
Resident-Alternate, Gerry Gagne
Resident-Alternate, Ken Peterson
School Transportation Coordinator, Anne Wiggin