



**TOWN OF BEDFORD
HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES**

September 28, 2021

A meeting of the Bedford Highway Safety Committee (HSC) was held on Tuesday, September 28, 2021 in the Bedford Meeting Room, 10 Meetinghouse Road (BCTV). Present were John J. Bryfonski (Chief of Police/Chair), Scott Hunter (Fire Chief/Vice Chair), Jeff Foote (Director of Public Works), Lori Radke (Town Council), Bill Jean (Resident), Jerry Gagne (Alternate Resident), Ken Peterson (Alternate Resident), Anne Wiggin (School Bus Coordinator). Absent were Madonna Lovett Repeta (Resident), and Kelleigh Murphy (Alternate Councilor).

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

II. Quorum Count:

III. Approval of Minutes from August 24, 2021

Motion by Chief Hunter to accept the August 24, 2021 meeting minutes, **seconded** by Ken Peterson. **Vote taken – Motion Passed. Abstentions Anne Wiggin.**

IV. Correspondence/Communications

A. No Correspondence to report.

V. Sub Committee Reports

A. None-

VI. New Business:

A. POWDER HILL ROAD - SPEEDING:

On August 17, 2021, TC Murphy requested a resident's concern relative to speed on Powder Hill Road be added to the next HSC agenda.

An email attached to TC Murphy's message indicated Ms. Chantalle Forgues a resident of Powder Hill Road who indicated there was "pervasive and dangerous speeding on Powder Hill Road" noting other Powder Hill Road residents were concerned for speeding vehicles and referenced a neighbor's mailbox was struck by a vehicle for the third time in recent memory, which Ms. Forgues noted was not unusual adding that QUOTE "all her neighbors can attest that both commercial and family vehicles speed at dangerous rates on our road. The speeding by the commercial vehicles is downright scary. Importantly, there has been an influx of families with young children on our road in the last five years. There are at least a dozen elementary school children who wait for the bus on the road every morning and get dropped off on our road every afternoon during the school year. We have had several near misses where our children have almost been struck by cars as they are waiting for the bus; this is particularly prevalent in the mornings where there is an abundance of cars with parents recklessly speeding down our road in a rush to get their kids to school. Furthermore, there is a never-ending flood of teenagers also racing

to get to school who sometimes pass other cars and even school buses on their way. This reckless speeding on our road has recently been aggravated by the new paving. Our road, which, as you know, is a hill, has turned into a dangerously smooth raceway whereby cars pick up speed from the top of the road as they descend down the hill to the bottom. Most of the school children live at the bottom of the road where the speeds increase to dangerous levels. Significantly, the road has several tricky curves that make it difficult to navigate the road safely at high speeds. And, of course, there are always the texters who are driving too fast and hit our mailboxes, planters, and lawn ornaments because they are so reckless. It is entirely foreseeable that, instead of a mailbox, they will hit one of our children one day. Please let this email put the Town on notice that this is a dangerous situation. It is foreseeable that someone will be grievously injured or die as a result of the reckless driving on our road. The number and severity of complaints found just on our neighbors Facebook page alone goes beyond mere anecdotal evidence of what seems like an inevitable tragedy. I am sure if you survey our neighbors, the information about the reckless driving on our road will be overwhelming. And, as you know, one of our dear neighbor's lives has already been lost from being struck while on a Town road, and although he did not lose his life on our road, our residents are painfully aware of the very real danger that exists right in our front yards. I would like to suggest that the Town look into placing a temporary speed bump near the bottom of the road - at least for the start of the school year when parents and teenagers *purposefully* race down the road in the morning. The temporary speed bumps are inexpensive and may be an effective initial deterrent to the reckless driving on our road. I would imagine that traffic experts might have additional solutions. I doubt, however, that signage and radar speed signs would be effective. I understand that they are not effective in other parts of our Town. I believe that the placement of a temporary speed bump is a great place to start to address this problem. The consequences for failing to address this problem may be tragic. I recognize that some of our community may complain about a temporary speed bump, but I would like the opportunity to address those complaints, as I believe that they can be remediated.

NOTE: The Police Department received no complaints regarding Powder Hill Road to the best of my recollection prior to this message having been forwarded to the HSC by TC Murphy.

In view of TC Murphy's request to the HSC the Police Department gathered traffic safety data on Powder Hill Road as follows:

Traffic Data : Location: 118 Powder Hill Road; Closest Cross Street Newfane Road
 Analysis Dates: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 - Tuesday, August 31, 2021

Posted Speed Limit:	30 MPH
Enforcement Tolerance: 10 MPH	10 MPH
Enforcement Limit:	41 MPH & Up
Percentage Above Limit:3.2%	3.2%
Enforcement Rating:	LOW

WESTBOUND: Percent Above Limit: 2.4% - Enforcement Rating: LOW

EASTBOUND: Percent Above Limit: 4.0% - Enforcement Rating: LOW

Combined

1-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	21-25	26-30	31-35	36-40	41-45	46-50	51-55	56-60	61-65	>65
0	3	25	70	248	999	1298	473	87	13	0	1	0	1

42% ≤ 30 82% ≤ 35 MPH

85 percentile = 35 TOTAL VEHICLES COMBINED 3,218 DAILY AVG: 459

Director Foote: Speed bumps tend to cause noise when commercial vehicles cross over, and winter maintenance is an issue and a whole list of other issues. DPW is not in support of a speed bump. People approach speed bumps slow down once over pick up speed to make up time that was lost. What about signage and speed compliance?

Chief Bryfonski: Requested DPW determine if there are appropriate speed limit signs in the area. The speeds of vehicles monitored were well within the speed enforcement tolerance. Bedford Police have been conducting speed enforcement and extra patrols on Powder Hill, which will continue.

Gerry Gagne: This is local traffic not a through street.

Chief Bryfonski: Agreed; this is not a commuter road with approximately 95% of the traffic comprised of residents, visitors, and delivery persons.

Ken Peterson: Can the residents take a plate number and report to the PD.

Chief Bryfonski: Yes, if given a license plate number the police officer will contact the owner of the vehicle to determine who may have been operating the vehicle when observed; however, no citation can be issued.

Director Foote: DPW will visit the site to check for the presence of speed limit signage and if appropriate and the resident(s) agree, DPW can install a speed limit sign on Powder Hill.

Chief Bryfonski: Since we have no motion, I recommend we commit to have DPW take a look at the signage and the PD will continue to direct patrols in the area. No motion was offered and no further action on this agenda item was taken.

B. 83 Liberty Hill Road:

On September 1, 2021 Mr. Michael T. Burns, 83 Liberty Hill Road, sent an email message to the Highway Safety Committed who requested the HSC consider installing a directional sign at the intersection of County Road & Liberty Hill Road with an arrow pointing south to Bedford High School as the number of turn arounds in Mr. Burns' driveway has become a traffic hazard. Mr. Burns further added that the cars using his driveway to turnaround is not a question of avoiding the traffic at the intersection but simply not knowing what direction the High School is located. Mr. Burns stated the turnarounds often happens in the afternoon when sports teams from out of town are attempting to get to the fields.

Director Foote: Mr. Burns contacted DPW on a biannual basis when school starts, and I have spent time in the area with the residents and none of the residents have had a similar complaint.

Chief Bryfonski: This likely occurs early on in the school season when visiting athletes and parents are not sure of directions to Bedford High School. As the school season progresses this situation likely corrects itself. There has never been a school directional sign in this area.

Bill Jean: Chief have you had any notification of any type of accidents or incidents as a result of this? Obviously, this is an inconvenience to the homeowner, but it doesn't sound like this is a safety concern and there is good sight distance on this stretch of road.

Chief Bryfonski: I am not aware of any accident history due to turnaround activity. My opinion, unless Mr. Burns comes back to us with a continuing problem, we table this. All in agreement; no further action was taken on this item.

C. Request for a crosswalk sign at Quincy Dr./Ledgewood Rd. and a section of sidewalk from Ledgewood Rd to Hannaford Market.

On September 9, 2021 the Rick Sawyer, Town Manager, forwarded a written request dated August 28, 2021 from Mr. Tony Ziebell 11 Shepherd Hill Road who wrote, "I recently spoke with Jillian Harris who suggested this request. The Hannaford Market on Jenkins Road was presented as a neighborhood market. It's very nice and popular. As such it creates significant traffic. The Police Dept. placed the portable speed indicator on Jenkins Road twice this year. We live at 11 Shepherd Hill Road off of Quincy Drive. The Quincy Drive neighborhood along with streets that connect to Ledgewood Road are popular walking, jogging, and hiking loops. Safely crossing Jenkins at the Quincy/Ledgewood intersection and walking to the store along Jenkins Road is dicey. I'd like to request a signed crosswalk at the Quincy/Ledgewood intersection and a section of sidewalk from Ledgewood Road to the Hannaford Market."

Tony Ziebel 11 Shepherd Hill Rd: Why was the traffic trailer (Police Speed Radar Trailer) on Jenkins Rd? Was it the PD request of a resident?

Chief Bryfonski: Could have been both as the trailer is deployed based upon complaints of residents and known areas for excessive speed.

Mr. Ziebel: The widening of Jenkins at the Hannaford entrance/exit seems to have enabled cars to speed both ways on Jenkins Rd. At this intersection there is a school bus stop. This area is popular for walking, jogging etc. The increase of speed is making it dangerous for people to cross. People from Quincy/Ledgewood and the surrounding neighborhood walk to the market and I think it is a good idea to get the people off the road. And I would consider you sending this to the Town Council.

Chief Bryfonski: Director Foote, what would be an estimated cost be for a crosswalk and section of a sidewalk?

Director Foote: The approximate cost would exceed \$100,000 based upon experience, but a more detailed examination would be required.

Chief Bryfonski: Bedford Police frequently monitor the traffic signal at the intersection of Jenkins/Hardy and Route 101 so there is police presence in the area on a regular basis.

I have no conception of the amount of pedestrian traffic on Jenkins between Hannaford and Ledgewood/Quincy, which should be determined.

Gerry Gagne: Building a sidewalk on Jenkins Road would require a termination point into Hannaford's, which doesn't have a walkway up to the store. Hannaford's would be required to make some modifications to their site plan.

Chief Bryfonski: There would have to be an acceptance of the sidewalk on the Hannaford's side.

There are three (3) issues here:

1. Cost.
2. The number of pedestrians that walk there.
3. Coordination on the Hannaford side.

Bill Jean: As mentioned in the past, crosswalks need to have a terminus to a sidewalk, and this does not appear to exist. At this time, we do not have enough data to move forward with a motion.

Gerry Gagne: The drainage ditch (along Jenkins Road) would have to be enclosed.

Chief Bryfonski: I think we need to defer to DPW and the Police Department to answer these questions for the committee to consider before taking any action. I recommend DPW develop a preliminary cost estimate and the Police Department will attempt to determine how many pedestrians walk to/from Hannaford's from Ledgewood/Quincy.

This agenda item was tabled pending further information from DPW and the Police Department. All in favor.

D. Request for "Cross Traffic Does Not Stop" sign at the intersection of Woodbury and Palomino.

On September 13, 2021, our HSC Secretary, Ms. Robinson, received an email from Ms. Denise Nobert, Town of Bedford Public Works Business Manager who forwarded a sign request from Mr. Robert Kennett 13 Ruth Street who called to request a "Cross Traffic Does Not Stop" sign be installed at the intersection of Palomino and Woodbury indicating there are 2 stops signs at this intersection, both on Palomino. Woodbury traffic does not stop - see attached map.

In Mr. Kennett's sign request form, he stated the following: "Palomino Ln is a common driving shortcut between Boynton St and S River Rd. Judicious use of STOP signs in the neighborhood are effective at reducing speeding. While most of the signed intersections on Palomino are four-way stops, Woodbury is not. This causes a large number of near collisions. While many people do roll through or downright run the stop sign, they are not that dangerous since they can usually be anticipated and avoided. A larger problem is that many people assume this is a 4-way stop, stop on Palomino, see an approaching car on Woodbury, and pull out at the last second assuming that the other car also has a stop sign. Making this slightly worse is on the Eastbound approach, a shrub to the South and parked cars and a tree to the North partially obscure the view; cars often cross Woodbury when they obviously have not seen the oncoming car but assume it's safe because any other cars will stop. This a weekly occurrence for everyone in my family.

The description of the CROSS TRAFFIC DOES NOT STOP sign reads “The plaque may be used in combination with a STOP sign when engineering judgment indicates that conditions are present that are causing or could cause drivers to misinterpret the intersection as an all-way stop”, which I think perfectly describes this intersection. Goffstown installed one on Wallace Rd at Shirley Hill and it appears to be effective. I think a small version of that sign, 12x24 or vertical 10x14 (both shown below) would be inexpensive, informative and increase safety.”

NOTE: The Bedford Police Department researched its accident records and noted no reported accidents for Palomino and Woodbury. There were only two (2) reported accidents in the last 5 years in that area and they occurred on Palomino.

Councilor Radke: I am not a big fan of signs; however, I do think this one is helpful, and I would support a sign in this area.

Ken Peterson: Initially I would agree, is there any negativity about putting up a sign like this from DPW or Police?

Director Foote: This then becomes a reference point.

Chief Bryfonski: The negative aspect relates to the public perception that signage is ugly, and people don't want one on their front yard along with the notion that signage is only marginally effective.

Ken Peterson: One issue here is that drivers do not observe signage. At a four way stop there is a little sign on the bottom of the Stop Sign saying this is a 4 way Stop.

Director Foote: There was a comment about site issues, we can remove trees etc. I am not suggesting this is a candidate for a 4 Way Stop. It is more consistent to have a 4 Way Stop with the wording this is a 4 Way Stop, not sure that people would understand the sign “Cross traffic does not stop”.

Chief Bryfonski: In the Pines there are other 4 Way Stops on Palomino preceding Woodbury at Plummer Road and Mack Street. I recommend a 4 Way Stop as opposed to a “Cross traffic does not stop” sign as a 4-way stop would be more consistent with the intersections on the same road and is safer.

Gerry Gagne: Given there are other 4 Way Stop this would emphasize that point at Woodbury.

Director Foote: This is a cut through, and this could deter others.

Bill Jean: This seems like a positive solution to add a 4 Way.

Chief Bryfonski: From a police safety perspective I would prefer a 4 Way stop than a 2 Way Stop.

Councilor Radke: I would agree with a 4 Way Stop.

Ken Peterson: I am in agreement with this becoming a 4 Way Stop.

Motion Made by Chief Hunter to make the intersection of Palomino and Woodbury a 4 Way Stop with the addition of 2 Stop Signs on Woodbury Lane and place small 4 Way Stop signs below each stop sign. **Seconded by Ken Peterson – Motion Passed all in favor.**

VII. Old Business

A. NO OLD BUSINESS TO DISCUSS

VIII. Comments or Concerns:

A. Community Announcements:

1. The next Fall "CUB" cleanup Day on October 16th; please participate if you can; bags are available at the Transfer Station and in the Lobby of the Safety Complex.
2. Red Ribbon Week is October 23-31 which also incorporates Drug Take Back Day.

Motion made to adjourn by Gerry Gagne – **Seconded** by Bill Jean – Motion Passed to adjourn at 8:07 am.