

**TOWN OF BEDFORD
HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES
October 23, 2018**

A meeting of the Bedford Highway Safety Committee (HSC) was held on Tuesday, October 23, 2018 in the Bedford Meeting Room, 10 Meetinghouse Road (BCTV). Present were John J. Bryfonski (Chief of Police/Chair), Scott Wiggin (Fire Chief/Vice-Chair), Jeff Foote (Director of Public Works), Kelleigh Murphy (Town Council), Bill Duschatko (Town Council Alternate), Madonna Lovett Repeta (Resident), Jerry Gagne (Alternate Resident) and Anne Wiggin (School Bus Coordinator). Ken Peterson (Alternate Resident) and Bill Jean (Resident) absent.

- I. Call to Order 7:15 a.m.**
- II. Quorum Count**
- III. Approval of the September 25, 2018 minutes.**

**MOTION by Madonna Lovett Repeta to accept the minutes of the September 25, 2018 meeting, second by Jerry Gagne. Vote taken – Motion Passed.
Abstentions: Jeff Foote and Chief Scott Wiggin.**

- IV. Correspondence/Communications**
- V. Sub Committee Reports/None**
- VI. New Business**

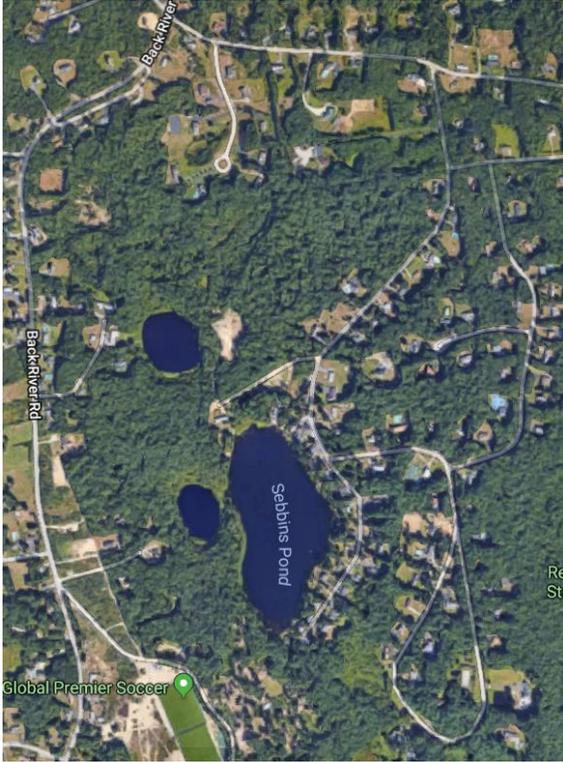
1. Request for Speed Reduction Sign on Sebbins Pond Dr. from 30 mph to 20 mph.

Chief Bryfonski: Email from Ms. Sheryl Campanie and Mr. Joseph Campanie of 36 Sebbins Pond Drive dated June 06, 2018 to the Committee’s Secretary, Ms. Robinson, entitled, “Speed limit reduction” which indicated they and their neighbors on Sebbins Pond Dr request a speed limit reduction to 20mph for safety reasons in our residential neighborhood.

The speed limit now is 30 mph; the correspondence went on to indicate the planned repaving of Sebbins Pond may lead to an increase in speed and noted that many neighbors walk dogs and parents with children along with bicyclists and joggers use the road.

Mr. Joseph Campanie of 36 Sebbins Pond Dr: Appreciates the repaving of Sebbins Pond and explained as of May 17, 2017 the Town Council changed the speed limits in other areas of Town. Mr. Campanie indicated he and his neighbors expect the speed of vehicles on Sebbins Pond Drive to increase after paving and asked the Committee to consider lowering the speed limit on Sebbins Pond Drive to 20 MPH to accommodate pedestrians bicyclists and joggers.

Chief Bryfonski: A copy of the satellite view was passed out to the committee and discussed.



Director Foote: Acknowledged DPW’s work to improve Sebbins Pond Drive, which is currently under construction with the binder layer in place. Director Foote indicated he did not believe the Committee could lower a speed limit to 20 MPH but considering the residential density; the fact that Sebbins Pond Drive ended in a cul-de-sac; that the road width was narrow despite DPW’s efforts to widen where possible, he would be in favor of lowering the speed limit on Sebbins Pond Drive to 25 MPH.

Chief Wiggin: Inquired as to the location of the speed limit signs.

Director Foote: County Rd.

Chief Wiggin: Indicated the section of Sebbins Pond Drive from County Road to Lodge Avenue is relatively straight with a lower housing density, which increases at Lodge Avenue and continuing to the end of the cul-de-sac and would support a speed limit reduction from Lodge Avenue to the end of the cul-de-sac.

Director Foote: Recommended the entire length of Sebbins Pond Drive be posted at 25 MPH to avoid confusion.

Chief Bryfonski: Agreed with Director Foote and noted the distance between County Road and Lodge Avenue was only 900 to 1000 feet (approximately) and to have a speed limit change in a short distance would be confusing for motorists and defeat the purpose of lowering the speed limit.

Director Foote: The neighbors in the area allowed DPW to cut some trees to improve the sight distance at the curve area and noted a 25 MPH limit was warranted.

Mr. Gagne: The traffic on Sebbins Pond is all local traffic not thru traffic.

Chief Bryfonski: Agreed with Mr. Gagne and noted that Sebbins Pond Drive would be an area for increased speed enforcement after DPW completed its work as speed always seems to increase on roads and streets after they have been resurfaced or improved.

Mr. Gagne: Are you in binder right now?

Director Foote: Yes, by the end of this week everything will be in binder (went on to explain what a binder is) except for the last section of Sebbins between Sandy Pond and the end of the road. We are still going through some environmental permitting from Sandy Pond south to the end of the road, which is why it will not be completed this year.

MOTION: By Madonna Lovett Repeta to decrease the speed on the entire length of Sebbins Pond Drive to 25 MPH. Seconded by Councilor Murphy. Vote take – all in favor – Motion passed.

Mr. Gagne: This would only be a recommendation to the Town Council.

Chief Bryfonski: Yes, this will be only be a recommendation to the Town Council as only the Town Council can amend the speed limit ordinance.

VII. Unfinished Business

1. PILGRIM/PURITAN SPEED

Chief Bryfonski: During last month's HSC meeting, the committee took up the request from Ms. Nancy Lundquist 38 Pilgrim regarding concern for vehicle speed on Pilgrim/Puritan.

Current Speed Limit in this area is 25 MPH, which was reduced based upon the recommendation by this committee to the Town Council last year after hearing from residents and conducting an analysis of traffic volume, speed and inclinometer testing.

Ms. Lundquist appeared at last month's meeting accompanied by Ms. Christina McKeon - 31 Pilgrim Dr; both of whom, in summary, indicated:

- Concern for children in the area
- Observed vehicles pass other cars that are going too slow
- Presented the HSC with a signed petition by the neighbors (on file) to have a 3 way stop installed at the intersection of Pilgrim and Puritan Dr.
- Suggesting a 3 way stop sign at the corner of Puritan and Pilgrim would slow the cars down that are cutting through and possibly deter them from using this as a cut-through route as well as reduced speed and volume

Data from the So. NH Planning Commission:

1. May 2015 SNHPC at our request acquired both speed and volume data:
 - a. AVG Weekday Volume: 405
 - b. Peak Volume: 4-5PM
 - c. Speed: (Note Limit 30 MPH): 60% within tolerance or lower; 50% > 30MPH
 - d. Location: Pilgrim east of Puritan

2. 21MAY – 01JUN2018 SNHPC Volume Only:
 - a. AVG DAY: 534 or 129 vehicles more on average than 2015
 - b. Peak Volume: 0700; 1400; 1600-1700; falls of at 1800

The Committee tabled this matter at the conclusion of last meeting to allow the Department of Public Works (DPW) and the Police Department to assess and determine whether a 3-way stop could be installed temporarily or permanently.

For the record, I have two (2) documents that I wish to enter into the record:

The first is a letter dated October 18, 2018 from Mr. Steven Ireland, Project Engineer, McFarland Johnson, Concord, NH to DPW Director Foote entitled, “Request for 3-Way Stops on Pilgrim Drive.”

In summary the letter from Project Engineer Ireland did not recommend any additional stop signs be installed on Pilgrim or to convert the intersection of Pilgrim and Puritan into 3-way stop intersection. Engineer Ireland indicated that installation of 3-way stops on Pilgrim/Puritan would be inconsistent with the guidance set forth in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices also referred to as the MUTCD.

Engineer Ireland documented the criterion set forth in the MUTCD upon which he based his recommendation including but not limited to the fact that both intersections fall below the thresholds for vehicular and pedestrian traffic volumes and speed and fail to meet the minimum criteria of five (5) or more crashed in a 12-month period.

I also have a memorandum dated October 22, 2018 from Deputy Chief of Police Daniel A. Doudi, Bedford Police Department entitled, “PILGRIM DRIVE STOP SIGNS REQUEST”. In summary, Deputy Chief Doudi indicated the Police Department also reviewed data for Pilgrim/Puritan relative to speed and accident history as well as site visits and concurred with Engineer Ireland’s recommendation that 3-way stop intersections on Pilgrim/Puritan are not indicated and oppose any additional traffic controls on Pilgrim/Puritan.

Deputy Chief Doudi also indicated in his memorandum that he requested DPW re-install the radar speed sign on Pilgrim.

Given the above information the Committee can deliberate and decide how best to proceed in this case.

Director Foote: Reiterated the information regarding the letter from Mr. Ireland dated October 18, 2018.

Chief Bryfonski: There is a petition on file with the committee presented by Ms. Lundquist supporting their concern for speed on Pilgrim/Puritan. Noted approximately 535 vehicles that travel on the road; that it is a cut through street especially with the construction on Rte 101.

Director Foote: During the design review for the 101 project an option was presented by the state to eliminate left hand turns onto Pilgrim from Rte 101 and the neighborhood was in objection to this proposal. The town and the state did offer this proposal to reduce the cut through traffic.

Chief Wiggin: Is it both intersections at Puritan and Pilgrim, they have two connecting points, is it the one closest to Heritage or Quaker?

Chief Bryfonski: I think the residents would be happy at either location.

Mr. Gagne: We have talked about this in the past that once people get through the stop sign they will accelerate to make up for lost time. Once the construction is completed on 101 some of that increased volume will go away.

MOTION: By Chief Bryfonski that the HSC NOT recommend 3 Way Stop Signs along Pilgrim and Puritan Drive based on the recommendations from McFarland Johnson and the Bedford Police Department. Seconded by Director Foote. Vote take- all in favor – Motion Passed.

VIII: Comments or Concerns:

1. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chief Bryfonski:

Red Ribbon Week: October 23-October 31; BeBOLD “Paint Bedford Red” in observance of RRW and calling attention to substance abuse. BeBOLD and our RRW partners from the Coalition of Bedford Youth are planning a number of activities for students and the public; Visit BeBOLDs website at www.BeBOLDBedford.ORG to learn more

Join us at the BHS Theatre on Monday October 29, 2018 at 7PM for a special BeBOLD presentation on addiction and recovery. This presentation will feature two recovering substance abusers, one from Bedford, who will discuss their road to addiction and recovery. 7 PM Monday October 29 at BHS Theatre.

National Drug Take Back Day is this Saturday, October 27 at the Bedford Safety Complex from 10A-2P; dispose of your unused and unwanted prescription drugs, no syringes, needles, or liquids please.

Last April, Americans turned in 474.5 tons (over 949,046 pounds) of prescription drugs at 5,842 sites operated by the DEA and more than 4,683 of its **state and local law enforcement** partners. The Bedford Police Department collected over 300 pounds of unwanted or expired medications.

Highway Safety:

School Bus Safety: All motorists **MUST** stop for a school bus when their red flashers are operating even on 4-lane roads except where there is a median divider.

School Speed Zones: Per RSA 265:60 II when school speed zones are active the speed limit is **REDUCED** by 10 MPH from the **POSTED LIMIT**

Construction Zone Speed Enforcement: There has been and will continue to be extra enforcement speed enforcement approaching the many construction zones in Town. For the safety of our construction workers, flaggers and other motorists; please **SLOW** down on approach to and in construction zones.

FROST and DEW ALERT: As we approach **FALL**, you can expect dew and in the coming weeks **FROST** on your windshields in the Morning; **IT IS YOUR DUTY** to ensure your windshields **FRONT/BACK** are clear.

PEDESTRIAN/JOGGER/WALKER ALERT: As the days get shorter and we have periods of darkness in the AM and PM be cognizant of pedestrians, walkers and joggers as well as bicyclists. And for those walkers, joggers **PLEASE WEAR REFLECTIVE CLOTHING** and **CARRY** a **LIGHT** and walk/run **AGAINST** Traffic; For **BICYCLISTS**—observe the **RULES** of the **ROAD** and **WEAR REFLECTIVE CLOTHING AND IF OPERATING AT NIGHT YOU MUST SHOW A LIGHT.**

Meeting adjourned 7:45 am

Respectfully submitted

Charlene T. Robinson, HSC Secretary