

**TOWN OF BEDFORD  
HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES  
November 27, 2018**

A meeting of the Bedford Highway Safety Committee (HSC) was held on Tuesday, November 27, 2018 in the Bedford Meeting Room, 10 Meetinghouse Road (BCTV). Present were John J. Bryfonski (Chief of Police/Chair), Kelleigh Murphy (Town Council), Bill Duschatko (Town Council Alternate), Madonna Lovett Repeta (Resident), Jerry Gagne (Alternate Resident) Bill Jean (Resident) and Anne Wiggin (School Bus Coordinator). Scott Wiggin (Fire Chief/Vice-Chair), Jeff Foote (Director of Public Works) and Ken Peterson (Alternate Resident) absent.

- I. Call to Order 7:15 a.m.**
- II. Quorum Count**
- III. Approval of the October 23, 2018 minutes.**

**MOTION** by Madonna Lovett Repeta to accept the minutes of the October 23, 2018 meeting, second by Jerry Gagne. Vote taken – Motion **Passed**. Abstentions: Bill Jean

**IV. Correspondence/Communications**

**V. Sub Committee Reports/None**

**VI. Old Business**

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

Chief Bryfonski: Pursuant to the recent action by the HSC to recommend a reduction in the speed limit on Sebbins Pond Drive from 30 MPH to 25 MPH, the Town Manager requested the Town Council establish a date for a public hearing to amend Chapter 262-6; Speed Limits; to reduce the speed limit on Sebbins Pond Dr. to 25 MPH; the public hearing is set for December 12, 2018.

**VII. New Business**

**1. Request Signage for Bicyclists**

Chief Bryfonski: Email dated October 29, 2018 from Mr. John Fleming and Ms. Jill Fleming, 65 Forest Drive, requesting informational signage to advise motorists of the law that requires motorists to move over for bicyclists.

NH RSA 265:143-a Drivers to Exercise Due Care When Approaching Bicycle. – Every driver of a vehicle, when approaching a bicyclist, shall insure the safety and protection of the bicyclist and shall exercise due care by leaving a reasonable and prudent distance between the vehicle and the bicycle. The distance shall be presumed to be reasonable and prudent if it is at least 3 feet when the vehicle is traveling at 30 miles per hour or less, with one additional foot of clearance required for every 10 miles per hour above 30 miles per hour. Violation: \$100

Mr. Fleming subsequently submitted a Town of Bedford Application for Cautionary Signs in support of his request to have signs posted to alert motorists in Bedford to the requirement to move over for bicyclists. In his submission, Mr. Fleming indicated, "Riding my bike I noticed many signs about the state law in Merrimack and none in Bedford. Most people do not know the law."

A review of motor vehicle accident records by the Police Department indicated nine (9) accidents/incidents over the past five (5) years that involved a bicycle; including one (1) fatal accident. Several of these accidents involved vehicles who failed to move over for bicyclists that were either forced off the road causing them to fall or actually resulted in a glancing impact, usually the motor vehicle's side mirror.

This committee, historically, has not favored cautionary signage, however, in this particular case the signage is not necessarily cautionary as much as it is educational to alert and advise motorists of their duty to move over for bicyclists and I would be in favor of posting such signs. The areas that I recommend are Liberty Hill at the Merrimack Town Line, Back River at the Merrimack Town Line, Back River approaching Peter Woodbury School, County Rd at Nashua Rd, 101, and Wallace Rd, Wallace Rd at New Boston south bound, Wallace Rd at the Merrimack Town Line.

Councilor Murphy: Are there any bicyclists at any particular time at Back River Rd at the Merrimack town line?

Mr. Gagne: On Sunday mornings there are a lot of bicyclists on Back River Rd, heading in and out of town.

Ms. Lovett Repeta: On weekends and evenings in the summer and or when there is no snow, there are a lot of bicyclists on North Amherst Rd and there are no shoulders and a lot of blind corners.

Mr. Gagne: On North Amherst there are catch basins that extend to the edge of pavement which bicyclists try to avoid.

Councilor Duschatko: What type of signage would you propose?

Chief Bryfonski: I would recommend DPW take a look at what Merrimack and the surrounding towns have or what the state has recommended.

Councilor Murphy: Would you propose installing all the signs at the same time or phase them in?

Chief Bryfonski: I would recommend DPW phase them in seasonally. We have had a number of incidents with bicyclists and joggers along with limited road width in many places. I would be in favor of a few of these signs particularly in the area of the High School (HS) to educate young motorists.

**MOTION:** Chief Bryfonski moves that the Highway Safety Committee (HSC) recommend the Department of Public Works (DPW) erect bicycle signage that advises motorists of the Move Over Law, particularly RSA 265: 143-a on the various roads and streets as maybe required and necessary to include but not limited to Liberty Hill at Merrimack Town Line, Back River at Merrimack Town Line, Back River approaching Peter Woodbury, County and Nashua, County Rd, Rte. 101, County and Wallace, Wallace Rd and New Boston, Wallace Rd Merrimack Town Line and North Amherst Rd. The HSC further recommends these signs be phased in, when appropriate, seasonally and able by the DPW. **Seconded** by Town Councilor Murphy.

Mr. Jean: Should the language be put onto the sign relative to the graphics of the sign or leave it up to the DPW.

Chief Bryfonski: We can amend the motion to recommend that DPW adopt the same graphic signage used in neighboring towns which is Merrimack and other surrounding communities. **Seconded** by Councilor Murphy to amend the motion. **Motion Passed – all in favor.**

Community Announcements – Holiday Safety Tips:

1. Lock your vehicle while shopping and do not leave any valuables in plain sight.
2. Park in well lite areas and be mindful of your wallets and purses.
3. Winter driving tips: clear snow and ice off your vehicles, increase your distance between your vehicle and the vehicle you are following particularly in traffic when the roads are snow covered and allow yourself extra time.

Meeting adjourned 7:37 am

Respectfully submitted

Charlene T. Robinson, HSC Secretary