

**TOWN OF BEDFORD  
HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES  
January 26, 2016**

A meeting of the Bedford Highway Safety Committee (HSC) was held on Tuesday, January 26, 2016 in the Bedford Meeting Room, 10 Meetinghouse Road (BCTV). Present were: John J. Bryfonski (Chief of Police), Scott Wiggin (Fire Chief), Jim Scanlon (Councilor), Madonna Lovett Repeta (Resident) Jerry Gagne (Alternate Resident), Bill Jean (Resident) Jeff Foote (Town Engineer/Assistant Director of Public Works), Anne Wiggin (School Bus Coordinator).

Chief Bryfonski called the meeting to order at 7:22 am and there was a quorum.

**Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION by Madonna Lovett Repeta to accept the minutes of the October 27, 2015 meeting, second Jerry Gagne. Vote taken – Motion Passed –**

**Correspondence/Communication – None**

**Sub Committee Reports**

**1. Report from Nashua/County Road Sub-Committee**

Chief Bryfonski: We have a sub-committee working on the Nashua/County Road issue. A memorandum was received from Lt. Bernard (Memorandum attached) regarding his review in connection with previous work the sub-committee has been conducting of this corridor between the high school, intermediate school, and the parking situation in this area. Three proposals were reviewed by the sub-committee, McFarland Johnson, VHB Engineering and CHA Consulting Inc. It was determined that VHB had previous assignments (for the Town and SAU 25) so this would reduce the cost, time and the effort needed to develop recommendations for the HSC. The HSC is a recommending body; it does not have a budget or the authority to accept contracts but it can make recommendations to any of the Town departments or to the Town Council.

**Since the Committee did not receive the informational packet: A Motion by Madonna Lovett Repeta to Table until this committee receives the paper work to review. Second Chief Wiggin. Vote taken – all in favor to table.**

Chief Wiggin: Has there been any action taken, there are a number of safety cones that run from the recreation area/little league field down to the High School.

Chief Bryfonski: The Superintendent indicated the school is concerned with the students walking along Nashua Rd. and placed traffic cones to direct students to walk along the shoulder side of the cones so the students would not be walking in the main traveled portion of the road.

Councilor Scanlon: The cones have been out for about 2-3 weeks and taken down on the weekends. The school board has decided to put a sidewalk in between the little league fields and the high school parking lot.

Mr. Foote: My understanding is the school district is supposed to have an article for voters to vote on in March. DPW is currently going through the permitting phase to construct a sidewalk from the parking lot at the school to the DPW parking lot. We are applying for a permit with DS due to some wetland and providing the vote passes in March we are prepared to start the construction of the sidewalk sometime this summer.

Chief Wiggin: Are the cones left out permanently?

Chief Bryfonski: After talking with the superintendent the cones were only supposed to be out during school days and the staff was supposed to pick them up on the weekend.

### **New Business**

#### **1. No Parking at Peter Woodbury School/Back River Rd & County Rd.**

Superintendent Magee: We have proposed in our Capital Expenditure Plan for fiscal year 2017 to reconstruct the front lot which is the corner of County and Back River Rd. The lot needs to be reconstructed due to paving issues and at the same time handle some drainage issues and also the parking issues of people parking off the road and making informal parking spaces off of Back River Rd. With this, we will bring all these number of parking spots that are used informally into formal parking on the property which will be a significant improvement especially for safety. This will only happen if we have a positive vote in March. I am requesting the posting of 'No Parking Signs' along County Rd from the corner of Back River down along both sides to Dalton Rd and all the way down to the second back parking lot at Peter Woodbury to the entrance of the second parking lot. We will be able to accommodate the same number of parking spots, but all on the property.

Chief Bryfonski: This will require changes to the "No Parking" ordinance and thus the HSC will be required to make such recommendation(s) to the Town Council. The HSC will be required to review the proposed plans that designate proposed "No Parking".

Superintendent Magee: The construction will be this coming summer, school year 2016-2017.

Chief Bryfonski: The ordinance changes would have to come into effect at the conclusion of construction late summer 2016.

Superintendent Magee: Yes

Superintendent Magee: (Reference a previous question from Chief Wiggin regarding traffic cones along Nashua Road) The cones are the school's responsibility and they are on loan from the town. They are put down Monday morning and taken up on Friday. They are also taken up prior to any snow event that would require plowing. This is for this winter only, it is not a long

term solution, and it is for the pedestrians walking from the DPW to the high school. They have to come up for plowing as DPW has agreed to plow as wide as they can on the shoulder to keep it open for the pedestrians. We have asked to leave them out overnight because there is only one grounds' person.

Chief Wiggin: Is there any temporary pre-warning signs that says traffic ahead.

Superintendent Magee: No, there is no pre-warning sign. We started to set the cones down on the first week of January and they are on the outside of the shoulder stripe. There is a spot where it is very tight for pedestrians due to some ledge, but the cones are set outside of the roadway and they do not encroach on the roadway.

Councilor Scanlon: What about yellow caution signs.

Mr. Foote: We can use something similar to what we have on Chubbuck Rd; tires with a post a temporary condition.

Chief Bryfonski: Maybe even a cross flag.

Chief Wiggin: At least to have something towards the school.

Mr. Foote: I will see what we can do.

Chief Bryfonski: (Reference No Parking at Peter Woodbury School) We can hold this in abeyance until we get the documentation from the school.

Mr. Jean: What is the long term plan until the sidewalk is in place.

Superintendent Magee: This has been in coordination with the town, town council, public works and police department. We have this on the warrant to be discussed in February to be voted on in March, a separate article for the construction of a sidewalk and we are describing it as the Nashua Rd sidewalk. If it doesn't pass we will need to bring it back to the town for discussion as to what needs to be done and DPW's parking lot would have to be closed to student parking which would cause other problems. The cones are just a temporary solution for this winter only.

## **Unfinished Business – None**

## **Comments or Concerns**

### **1. Highway Safety Data from 2015**

	2014	2015	Difference	% Change
<b>Highway Safety:</b>				
Accidents	682	684	2	0.293255
Fatal	1	1	0	0
Property Damage	569	579	10	1.757469
Injury	108	99	-9	-8.33333
Pedestrian	5	8	3	60
<b>Motor Vehicle Activity:</b>				
MV Summons Issued	1446	1237	-209	-14.4537
MV Warnings Issued	4567	4718	151	3.306328
Parking Tickets Issued	45	31	-14	-31.1111
MV Complaints	615	595	-20	-3.25203
DWI's	47	64	17	36.17021

Major concerns and elements involved in most serious MVAs:

1. Speed
2. Signal Violations
3. Texting or Inattention
4. Following too close

Councilor Scanlon: Questions about the traffic data, the demographics of the DWI's and texting issues.

Chief Bryfonski: The DWI cases are predominately on South River Rd and Route 101. With respect to texting and driving we are unable to draw a conclusion with respect to an age group that is more likely than other(s) to engage in texting while driving. It appears this problem transcends all ages and more likely to occur when approaching high volume intersections; particularly 101 and 114 during peak commuter time.

Meeting Adjourned 7:50 am  
 Respectfully Submitted  
 Charlene T. Robinson  
 Secretary