

**TOWN OF BEDFORD
HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES
August 23, 2016**

A meeting of the Bedford Highway Safety Committee (HSC) was held on Tuesday, August 23, 2016 in the Bedford Meeting Room, 10 Meetinghouse Road (BCTV). Present were: John J. Bryfonski (Chief of Police/Chair), Scott Wiggin (Fire Chief/Vice-Chair), Jim Aguiar (Councilor), Jerry Gagne (Alternate Resident), Bill Jean (Resident), Madonna Lovett Repeta (Resident), Ken Peterson (Alternate Resident), Jeff Foote (Town Engineer/Assistant Director of Public Works), and Anne Wiggin (School Bus Coordinator).

I. Call to Order 7:15

II. Quorum Count

III. Approval of Minutes from June 28, 2016

MOTION by Jerry Gagne to accept the minutes of the June 28, 2016 meeting, second Ken Peterson. Vote taken – All in Favor - Motion Passed.

IV. Correspondence/Communications

V. Sub Committee Reports

VI. New Business

1. Recommendation for Rumble Strips on Rt. 101 from Wallace Rd to the Amherst Town Line, in the center and edges of the road.

Chief Bryfonski: The Bedford Police Department is recommending NH DOT install rumble strips along Route 101 from Wallace Road west to the Town line based upon an analysis of accidents in this corridor and especially several serious injury accidents that involved vehicles that crossed over the centerline into oncoming traffic. The down side of rumble strips is the noise generated when the vehicle runs over the strips. However, due to the number of serious head on motor vehicle crashes on 101, the Police Department (PD) is making a recommendation to bring this forward to the Highway Safety Committee (HSC) for review and to make a recommendation to the DOT.

Ken Peterson: Within the last few months the state has completed a rumble strip the entire length of Rt 28 from Hooksett to Wolfeboro and I feel it has helped the traffic from wandering into the middle of the road. I agree with the concern of the noise and feel there is a difference with the center rumble strip and the break down lane rumble strip. People are less likely to hit the center line, if they do they will be corrected, I strongly recommend this.

Chief Wiggin: Is the center line because of so many turn offs from Rt 101 due to the businesses. To have the center line strip and not the fog line white strip, would this have more of an effect?

Once the recommendation is made is this something the state does through their maintenance program since it is a state highway?

Jeff Foote: The noise is a critical factor. I would be more supportive if the committee moves forward with the center line only. Much of the noise that will occur is when a vehicle is making a left turn either east or west and there is bypass traffic. Not sure how this will influence the neighborhoods and some of the adjacent subdivisions. It's a quality of life issue especially on the fog line. Has the state consulted with this committee?

Chief Bryfonski: No, this is just a recommendation. The Police Department's concern and basis for this recommendation is the number of incursions across the centerline, but not so much the fog line. The number of (serious injury) accidents that involved operators who drifted off to the side of the road aren't nearly as concerning (there has not been that many). All the accidents, serious bodily accidents on 101 west of Wallace, all have been incursions across the centerline averaging about two per year and a near fatal crash two weeks ago.

Ken Peterson: Within the last month I have been reading about an extensive study how dramatically accidents have decreased on highways where rumble strips have been placed on the center line.

Chief Wiggin: I feel that people that are stopped and taking a left hand turn going east side or west side on 101 that the speed is so low that the noise will be minimal. I do feel at a higher speed turning into side streets will have to cross the white line rumble strips twice and I highly support the center line and I do reserve the fog line application.

Chief Bryfonski: This will be a DOT project and we are only making the recommendation to the DOT to install the strips. This is an opportune time as DOT will be overlaying 101 soon.

Motion by Chief Bryfonski that the Town of Bedford HSC recommend to the NH Department of Transportation to install center line rumble strips along Rt 101 in the Town of Bedford from the intersection of Wallace Rd West to the Amherst Town Line - Second Madonna Lovett Repeta - All in favor – Motion passed.

VII. Unfinished Business

1. No Parking Signs on County Rd – P.W. School

Superintendent Chip Magee: The project at P.W. school is nearly completed. A lot of work has been done over the summer especially in the beginning when the trees were cut down which has made a tremendous improvement in the line of sight at the intersection. We have posted a set of signs along the north side of County Rd from the intersection at Back River following along past the first entrance of P.W. and all the way to the back parking lot along the P.W. property line. The signs have been posted, not enforced at this time; this is the reason for this meeting to have approval for this to be a no parking area. This does include the informal parking which has been used for years off of Back River and will become no parking which is part of the original plan and the plan that is now in place with the new expanded parking lot. The informal spots that are

being lost along County Rd have been more than replaced by parking spots on the property. Drivers who want to get in and out of P.W. will have to come onto the property and use one of the lots which is broken into two pieces. For the signs that have been posted I am requesting for the Town to be supportive of enforcing no parking along the north edge of County Rd from the intersection of Back River all the way to the back parking lot.

Chief Bryfonski: Referring to the map on the screen (map is on file) shows a red line indicating proposed no parking along Back River Road, which is in addition to what Superintendent Magee has proposed. The Superintendent is referring to the north side of County Rd. The committee should consider no parking on Back River Rd from the intersection of County going north on the west side of Back River. At a previous meeting there was discussion regarding no parking along the west side of Back River extending from the intersection of County Rd north. If you are stopped on County Rd facing east and looking to your left toward Back River Rd for south bound traffic, the curvature to the road and elevation reduces the line of sight. Vehicles parked on that side of the road even with the clearing presents a line of sight issue for operators attempting to observe south bound traffic on Back River approaching County.

Jeff Foote: In looking at the diagram and the plan where the proposed no parking ins go northerly on Back River Rd, why not extend the back parking lot to the property line. During the construction vehicles where using this as an excess point onto Back River Rd.

Chief Bryfonski: I agree. The issue here is the safety of traffic that is moving through the intersection. It has improved through the years as the town has done some extensive clearing. Any time a vehicle is parked on the west side of Back River adjacent to the school it does impact the line of sight because of the curvature of the road and elevation. The school is concerned during events when Back River Rd is used for overflow parking. The number of cars that are parked there versus the impact on safety is what this committee needs to look into. I do agree with the Town Engineer, Jeff Foote, to recommend no parking along Back River Rd and that it should extend to the property line.

Ken Peterson: Referring to Superintend Magee's comment, they have created more parking spaces on the campus where before parking spaces were artificially generated along the two roads prior to this and the need should not be here anymore. My recommendation, no parking should be the entire perimeter of the campus on both County Rd and Back River Rd. If there is sufficient parking on campus enforcing no parking is a safety point of view. I agree with Chief Bryfonski's analysis that the sight distance looking down Back River Rd and having cars parked there is onerous and it should be eliminated.

Bill Jean: Is the south side of County Rd restricted as well? If we restrict this north side would this encourage vehicles to park on the south side and then traversing off of County Rd.?

Chief Bryfonski: Parking is permitted on the south side of County Road; however, there is limited space along the south edge of County that restricts parking there.

Jeff Foote: I agree.

Councilor Aguiar: Clarification on the proposed signage: are these proposed strict no parking? I believe over on the other side of County at McKelvie we have no parking no standing.

Chief Bryfonski: This is strictly no parking. At McKelvie, no parking, no stopping and no standing was enacted as of a result of the traffic queuing up for pick up and drop off. I have not seen this at P.W. school.

Superintendent Magee: Regarding all of the elementary schools there are 3-4 major events per year. On these days there is a lot of street parking at each of the elementary schools because there is far more people coming to the events on these few days, we would never have enough spots for these few days. We have had people parking in all of the areas that we are now discussing as no parking. It will be difficult to keep people out of these spots on the event days. People might park on the other side of Back River Rd or park south of County Rd, I do not want to create a worse situation on these event days. On these event days we do not have the capacity to have all cars park on campus, so there will be parking throughout the streets and the neighborhood.

Ken Peterson: There is an easy solution during these 3-4 events a year if the law enforcement authorizes the school to put bags over the signs.

Chief Bryfonski: We could accommodate the parking along County Road during special events; however, I would exempt Back River Rd because of the reduction to the line of sight. County Rd parking can be sustained for event parking – not Back River Rd.

Jerry Gagne: How would the ordinance be adopted for this parking if there were exceptions such as parents or grandparents day?

Chief Bryfonski: Rather than modifying the ordinance, the school could contact and coordinate with the PD to insure when they are having an event at the school the PD would not enforce no parking in a particular area so long as it does not impede traffic. I believe we do not have to have an exemption ordinance for no parking during an event.

Ken Peterson: By placing the bags over the signs it specifically says they can park at this location as there would not be bags over the signs on Back River Rd.

Superintendent Magee: I find this very helpful as these events are very important to the schools.

Chief Wiggin: Referring to the red line on the map as it exists: now that these would be the permanent ones and not be effected by these events.

Superintendent Magee: Yes, I would defer to the safety questions that have been discussed here and ask for as much parking as possible. In this scenario we would free up all of the County Rd parking that I am proposing that we would take away on a routine basis. I would question parking on the other side of Back River to make sure we are treating this safely, there is always a detail officer at these large events and the officer can make the decisions as to whether the parking is safe or not. I feel comfortable keeping the red line proposal.

Chief Bryfonski: To Jeff Foote - how far north on Back River Rd would you recommend extending the no parking zone?

Jeff Foote: Extend it right to the property line.

Madonna Lovett Repeta: I feel it is important to cover the signs on the days we are allowing them to park in certain areas because people will assume they can park there now and another time. There needs to be some kind of way to let people know that this is legal today but another day it is not legal.

Chief Bryfonski: We will leave this to the Superintendent of Schools to purchase the equipment to cover the signs.

Superintendent Magee: Yes, we will be happy to do it.

Chief Wiggin: These will be installed by your personal not the Town.

Superintendent Magee: Yes, we would be asking for permission in advance from Chief Bryfonski.

Chief Wiggin: Referring to the map - It's on site not off site it looks like a hammer head at the end of the parking on the left hand side, it looks like a pull in or it looks like it is designed as a backing spot? It looks like 2 parking spots, it does not say parking or no parking and it is not striped. Will a no parking sign be placed there or hash it out so people don't park there, it looks like people will pull right in there and that's why I thought it was a backing spot.

Superintendent Magee: Yes it is. It is designed as a backing spot and I am interested to see in the next few weeks how the flow in and out works there and there will be some adjustments. I think it might be an inconvenience to parents as it is more difficult to get in and out. At the same time I hope parents understand that this is a lot safer for everyone.

Motion made by Chief Bryfonski that the HSC request that the Bedford Town Council post County Rd "No Parking" along the north side of County Rd at the intersection of Back River Rd extending west to the property line of Peter Woodbury School and to post "No Parking" on Back River Rd on the west side extending from the intersection of County Rd north to the property line of Peter Woodbury School – Second Bill Jean

Chief Wiggin: Are we going to designate the length how far down on County as we did on Back River Rd.

Chief Bryfonski: To the property line. .

All in favor – Motion Passed.

VIII. Comments o Concerns

Chief Bryfonski: I just want to make this committee and the public aware that school will be opening on Thursday August 25 and for motorists to observe all school zone speed reductions. Bedford PD officers will be monitoring school zones speed limits and will be issuing citations. Motorists are also reminded to be more cautious and reduce speed in the vicinity of school bus stops. Motorists are also reminded to observe school bus stop signals and to stop well in advance of approaching a stopped school bus with its' red light flashing. Exercise caution in the vicinities of all school zones at all times even when the school zone speed signs are not activated. Reminder, the "All Way Stops" that are in place at McKelvie and the High School are now active and are going to be enforced. Also, there is a new traffic pattern at Peter Woodbury School and all motorists and parents should plan to adjust to the new parking scheme and pattern. Those who are dropping off or picking up students at McKelvie; a reminder that parents must not stop on County Rd to queue up to enter the campus which causes grid lock and the likelihood of a serious crash. County Rd and Liberty Hill Rd are posted for no stopping, standing or parking adjacent to McKelvie.

Regarding traffic enforcement, the Town of Bedford suffered two fatal crashes back to back on July 29th and July 30th. The following week a serious but not fatal crash occurred on Route 101. In light of these crashes the Bedford PD initiated zero tolerance traffic enforcement program focusing specifically on Rt. 101 and South River Rd but also throughout the Town of Bedford. Please, as you drive through Bedford, always drive as if your loved one is in the other car or on the street.

Ken Peterson: Question to Anne Wiggin about school busses. When the red light is flashing it means to stop don't go by the bus, what does the yellow light mean? When are they supposed to turn the yellow lights on and how far are the busses supposed to drive with the yellow lights on?

Anne Wiggin: They do this for a precautionary measure to let the public know if it is heavy traffic or if there are multiple bus stops along the route that they are going to be stopping. Sometimes there is a situation when they are close to another bus stop and they leave the cautionary lights on.

Ken Peterson: What turns the cautionary yellow light on?

Anne Wiggin: There is a switch. Opening the door turns the red light on and at times the arm will turn the red light on.

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