

**TOWN OF BEDFORD
HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES
April 23, 2019**

A meeting of the Bedford Highway Safety Committee (HSC) was held on Tuesday, April 23, 2019 in the Bedford Meeting Room, 10 Meetinghouse Road (BCTV). Present were John J. Bryfonski (Chief of Police/Chair), Scott Wiggin (Fire Chief/Vice Chair), Bill Duschatko (Town Council), Denise Ricciardi (Town Council/Alternate) Madonna Lovett Repeta (Resident), Jerry Gagne (Alternate Resident) Bill Jean (Resident)). Ken Peterson (Alternate Resident), Jeff Foote (Director of Public Works) and Anne Wiggin (School Bus Coordinator) absent.

- I. Call to Order 7:15 a.m.**
- II. Quorum Count**
- III. Approval of the March 26, 2019 minutes.**

MOTION by Madonna Lovett Repeta to accept the minutes of the March 26, 2019 meeting, **second** by Bill Jean. **Vote taken – Motion Passed.** Abstentions: Fire Chief Wiggin

IV. New Business

- 1. Request for Signage on Birchwood Circle and West View Rd.

Chief Bryfonski: Email message dated March 28, 2019 from Mr. William Dermody, 39 Birchwood Circle, who expressed concern with new neighbors and more children to the area of Birchwood Circle where there is a slope and a blind curve. Mr. Dermody also indicated the prevalence of vehicles speeding on Birchwood Circle and was concerned given the additional children in the neighborhood as well as the curve, slope and sight distances regarding pedestrian/children safety.

Lieutenant (LT) Michael R. Bernard/Bedford Police Department: LT Bernard indicated he conducted a traffic analysis of Birchwood Circle and the adjoining street(s), which was presented including images (attachments) depicting the area in question. LT Bernard found no signage in the area for speed (Town of Bedford Speed Limit of 30 MPH), curve ahead or children playing. LT Bernard stated traffic was monitored on Birchwood Circle for 9 full days; indicating approximately 73 vehicles per day traveled on Birchwood Circle. According to LT Bernard, his analysis revealed the speed of vehicles that traveled on Birchwood Circle fell within the 85th percentile averaging 23 mph. LT Bernard indicated that based on the data obtained (attachment) he did not find speeding vehicles presented a concern on Birchwood Circle and concluded the prima facie speed of 30 MPH was adequate. LT Bernard noted that although he was aware the Town did not favor posting “slow children” signs, he offered that posting cautionary signage “curve ahead” or “slow curve ahead” may be options to consider.

Jerry Gagne: If snow storage was added to each side of the road sight distance is further reduced, which is a factor on all other Town roads during winter.

Chief Bryfonski: Noted children, the concern expressed by Mr. Dermody, would not likely be playing in or on Birchwood Circle during the winter months.

Chief Wiggin: Is there any accident data?

LT Bernard indicated he did not have crash data but could not recall any accidents in the area that he could recall in the past 20 years.

Chief Bryfonski: Concurred with LT Bernard noting no significant crashes in the area in the past three years.

Bill Jean: Offered that he did not believe residents would want speed limit signs posted but perhaps "caution children playing".

Jerry Gagne: Noted the Highway Safety Committee, historically, did not advocate in favor of cautionary signage for children playing; adding that the signs that had been posted in years past were still in place; rusted and the children were now grown.

Ken Peterson: Noted that in his experience signage seems to have no effect on speed or how people drive. Mr. Peterson also noted that Birchwood Circle was primarily used by residents who live there and or are visiting and did not believe any type of sign would change driver behavior.

Councilor Duschatko: Agreed with Mr. Peterson and noted the data suggested mostly local traffic.

Madonna Lovett Repeta: Concurred with other members noting speed remained within the desired 85th percentile at 23 mph and did not believe any additional action was required.

Chief Bryfonski: Noted the Police Department will alert the sector patrol and will increase patrols in the area.

MOTION: By Mr. Bill Jean to take no action based on the data and information reviewed. **Seconded** by Madonna Lovett Repeta.

Discussion on Motion: None

Motion Passed – all in favor

V. Old Business/None

VI. Correspondence/Communications

VII. Sub Committee Reports/None

VIII. Comments or Concerns

Chief Bryfonski:

1. Drug Take Back Day is Saturday April 27, 2019 from 10am to 2:00 pm. The drug drop box located at the Police Department lobby is always available for drop off 24/7, 365.
2. Please abide by the "Move over Law".
3. Dangers of Distractive driving.
4. Route 101 construction please use caution.
5. Video surveillance sign located at the PD.

Meeting adjourned 8:40 am

Respectfully submitted

Charlene T. Robinson, HSC Secretary