



TOWN OF BEDFORD

HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

April 27, 2021

Via Zoom

Due to the Coronavirus crisis and in accordance with Governor Sununu's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, the Highway Safety Committee (HSC) is using the Zoom platform to conduct this meeting electronically. Please note that there is no physical location for this meeting and the BCTV building is closed to the public.

The Town of Bedford is providing public access to the meeting live on BCTV, streaming at www.Bedfordnh.org/393/BCTV, and by calling into the meeting. Please email crobinson@bedfordnh.org or call 603-792-1333 to receive the Zoom call-in information.

(HSC) staff will also be accepting questions and comments by email at jbryfonski@bedfordnh.org. Please notify staff by email if there are technological issues during the meeting.

All votes must be taken by roll call.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85656744121?pwd=S3JlMlQ0am8rcisxaHZtRkdoSkZtZz09>

Meeting ID: 856 5674 4121

Passcode: 576010

One tap mobile

+16468769923,,85656744121#,,,,*576010# US (New York)

+13017158592,,85656744121#,,,,*576010# US (Washington DC)

I. Call to Order: 7:15 A.M.

II. Quorum Count: Section 3.4 Requires 5 Committee Members.

A. Roll Call of Members Present.

IN ORDER TO COMPLY WITH PUBLIC MEETING REQUIREMENTS PLEASE INDICATE WHERE YOU ARE AND WHETHER ANYONE ELSE IS PRESENT:

Chief John Bryfonski __ Chair

Chief Scott Hunter __ Vice-Chair

Dir. Jeff Foote __ DPW

TC Radke __ TC Member

TC Murphy __ TC Alternate

Bill Jean __ Resident

Madonna Lovett Repeta __ Resident

Gerry Gagne __ ALT Resident

Ken Peterson __ ALT Resident
Anne Wiggin __ School Transportation Coordinator Absent

- B. Seeing a quorum is present; the HSC may proceed with business

III. Approval of Minutes

- A. Motion by Madonna Lovett Repeta to approve the minutes from the March 23, 2021 meeting. Second by Chief Scott Hunter. Vote taken by roll call; All in favor.

IV. Correspondence/Communications

- A. Correspondence sent to Town Manager reference the HSC's recommendation to install a Cross Walk at Joppa Hill Educational Farm.

V. Sub Committee Reports

- A. None-

VI. New Business:

A. Tirrell Rd & Stephanie Dr: Resident(s) concerns for traffic safety.

Mr. Jon Fraser, 21 Stephanie Drive wrote via email to the Committee on April 7th reference traffic issues at the intersection of Tirrell Road and Stephanie Drive:

Mr. Fraser reported excessive speed on both Tirrell and Stephanie; vehicles are sometimes driving down the middle of Tirrell; Operators are not paying attention to pedestrians on the road resulting in close calls.

The intersection itself has very tight radius corners; cars that don't come to a complete stop at Stephanie end up in the middle of Tirrell Road; and cars turning into Stephanie tend to cross over the center of the road. Mr. Fraser indicated the drainage ditch and telephone pole limit the placement of the stop sign and the size of the intersection aprons. He went on to state a lot of cars that drive down Stephanie, realize it's a dead end when they reach the cul-de-sac, and race back up the street, not stopping at the stop sign.

Mr. Fraser discussed ideas with a few of the neighbors on his end of the street.

1) Make Stephanie and Tirrell a 3-way stop sign intersection to improve both the turning congestion and the speeding.

2) Post a dead-end street sign.

3) Move the existing Stephanie stop sign a bit further back from the intersection to move stopped cars a bit further back from the actual intersection.

Chief Bryfonski directed the Operations Support Division review Mr. Fraser's issues and their report is provided as follows:

“For some reference, Tirrell Road is a fairly straight and level road, running west from Back River Road to a cul-de-sac. It has four feeder roads off of it: Hastings Road, Preysnar Road, Mailloux Court, and Stephanie Drive. Stephanie Drive is approximately halfway down Tirrell Road and runs south to a cul-de-sac.

On April 9, 2021, I placed the traffic data collector at Tirrell Road and Stephanie Drive, along a long straightaway just before a sweeping left hand curve, in order to determine speeds and traffic patterns.

Tirrell Road is a thirty (30) mile per hour zone.

Based on the data collected by the radar recorder box, the enforcement threshold is low for Tirrell Road at Stephanie Drive. Over the course of two weeks, a traffic box was placed directly at the intersection, monitoring traffic on Tirrell Road. There were a total of 5,920 vehicles (400 vehicles per day) that passed the traffic box during that time. For reference, that number is fairly low compared to other roads in town. Of those 5,920 vehicles, 244 were over forty (40) miles per hour, or about 4.1% of the total. This is considered a low amount of vehicles travelling in excess of the speed limit. Please see the attached data and charts for reference.

It should be noted that a check of our records since April 1, 2020 showed zero (0) calls for service on Tirrell Road, Hastings Road, Preysnar Road, Stephanie Drive or Mailloux Court in regards to motor vehicle complaints or accidents.

I have attached photographs of the area in question to aid in decision making. I do not believe that moving the stop sign location on Stephanie Drive is needed. The sight distance at the particular stop sign is excellent for vehicles travelling both on Tirrell Road and Stephanie Drive. If the issue is vehicles not stopping at the required stop sign, moving its location will not be successful in stemming these violations.

Posting a “Dead End” sign on Stephanie Drive may subdue some of the traffic proceeding to the cul-de-sac, but will only stop those vehicles that are not familiar with the area already. There are only ten (10) residences on Stephanie Drive and the vast majority of traffic on this roadway are residents.

Based on the information collected, I feel that the best course of action is to increase police patrols in the area in relation to speed and stop signs. Increased presence will, hopefully, slow traffic and make it safer for pedestrians. It will eliminate the needs for extra signage and the costs associated with that”.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Fraser: There is a lot of pedestrian traffic and since the construction of Mailloux Drive vehicle traffic has increased. It is used as a cut through. There is a straight stretch where the vehicles tend to speed up. Traffic comes down the cul-de-sac just turn around. Mr. Fraser stated he and his neighbors want the traffic to slow down.

DISCUSSION:

Chief Bryfonski reviewed the data from the Operation Support Division (attached).

Ken Peterson: I feel there should be a sign “dead end” or “no access” for the cul-de-sac. This is a straightaway with a “T” coming in, not sure if it would be appropriate to make this a three way stop, this might increase the violators by cruising through the stop sign.

Town Councilor Radke: The posting of the speed limit signs does it vary from different areas in town.

Chief Bryfonski: The town speed limit is 30 MPH unless otherwise posted. Some areas are posted at a reduced speed of 25 MPH.

Town Councilor Radke: I agree with Mr. Peterson with “dead end” or “No thru Way” sign. Also, maybe paint a white line to help vehicles not to go any further, this could help to alleviate some of the concerns of the cars pulling out of Stephanie.

Madonna Lovett Repeta: I agree with both Mr. Peterson and Town Councilor Radke’s recommendations and I also like the quote from the officer that did the survey to “increase police patrols in the area in relation to speed and stop signs. Increased presence will, hopefully, slow traffic and make it safer for pedestrians. It will eliminate the need for extra signage and the costs associated with that.

Director Jeff Foote: The “No Outlet” on Stephanie can be added and we can also look at Tirrell Rd. where that cul-de-sac is as well and add one at that location to keep people on the perceived cut through. As far as moving the 3 way stop we can have the pavement markings and sign experts take a look at them and we can re-locate them if it is more advantageous. Someone was talking to the residents about the 3 way stop and a resident, a retired Bedford Police Lt, is opposed to the 3 way stop. His concerns of noise and pollution from the frequent stopping and starting.

Jerry Gagne: I concur with Dir. Foote regarding the 3 way stop. I do not think it is appropriate considering the low volume of the road. Also, I agree with the “No Outlet” sign on Stephanie.

Bill Jean: I concur with all the previous comments. Chief, what is the capacity to increase patrol? I also agree the 3 way stop is not the best resolution. Signage could help.

Chief Bryfonski: We do have an intensive traffic enforcement program that is ongoing and we continually increase the number of summonses that are issued each year. We will increase the presence of police patrols in the area. We do have additional equipment coming in through a grant from State Highway Safety. A new radar speed monitoring trailer and a laser monitor.

Motion by Ken Peterson to have a “No Outlet” sign installed.

Chief Bryfonski: Dir. Foote: What about the second “No Outlet” sign?

Director Foote: At the end of Tirrell before you take the left just before or at the intersection before you get to Mailloux. We will look at the position of the stop sign and modify that if needed.

Ken Peterson: Amendment accepted.

Seconded by Bill Jean.

Chief Bryfonski: Motion by Ken Peterson that was amended to recommend a “No Outlet” sign installed and a second “No Outlet” sign installed on Tirrell as indicated by Dir. Foote at the intersection just before Mailloux and a review of the of the stop sign placement and pavement markings.

Ken Peterson: I agree – seconded by Bill Jean – All in favor Motion passed by roll call.

Bill Jean: Motion to recommend the increase of patrols as deemed appropriate by the Chief and the traffic control officers – Seconded by Madonna Lovett Repeta.

Director Foote: I would like the opportunity for the Police Chief to direct this and not the Committee – Ken Peterson agrees with Dir. Foote and this should not be guided by motions from the Committee.

Bill Jean: Motion withdrawn.

B. Ministerial Rd: Request for speed limit signage; concern for speeding.

1. On April 13, 2021 Ms. Erin Barry wrote via email to the Highway Safety Committee who requested approval for a speed limit sign on Ministerial Rd. in Bedford from the Highway Safety Committee. Ms. Barry stated she’s lived on the road for twenty years and noticed a significant increase in speeding on Ministerial Rd. in the last few years. Ms. Barry indicated a lot of people walk and run on the road and with the Bedford Village Morning School next door, Ms. Barry indicated she believed it is reasonable to reinforce the safe driving speeds on the road.
2. Photo of current speed limit signage placement.

DISCUSSION

Jerry Gagne: The sign that has been installed is it temporary or permanent for that location?

Chief Bryfonski: Temporary.

Ken Peterson: What is the efficacy of the radar signs?

Chief Bryfonski: People do tend to brake when they see the sign flash and I do find that they are effective. There are two speed limit signs on Ministerial, one near Wallace and the other just outside of Chandler. I don’t believe additional signage will make that much of a difference or influence operators.

Dir. Foote: Agreed. We could look into adding a sign just before you crest the hill at Ministerial Branch as you head down the hill as a reminder also, if we do this the sign would have to be on someone’s front lawn.

Chief Bryfonski: A review of an additional sign by DPW as indicated by Director Foote might be helpful in influencing some speed.

Bill Jean: Residing on Ministerial Rd. for over 30 years I agree with the traffic on the road and I can attest to the traffic slowing down with the temporary sign that has been placed. I agree with Dir. Foote, the most important place to add an additional sign would be at the crest of the hill, if one were to be added.

Motion by Chief Bryfonski to have DPW conduct a review to determine whether or not it is feasible to place an additional speed limit sign on Ministerial Rd in the vicinity of Ministerial Branch – Seconded by Town Councilor Radke – Motion passed all in favor by roll call.

IX. Comments or Concerns:

A. Community Announcements:

- a. Clean Up Bedford Day April 17th Results:
- b. Drug Take Back Day April 24th Results:

B. Highway Safety:

- a. Pedestrian – Joggers – Bicyclist SAFETY
- b. Motorcycle Safety
- c. Distracted Driving
- d. Don't Drink & Drive and Drugged Driving is DWI

C. Highway Safety Committee Member Appointments:

- a. Town Council action on April 28th
- b. Residents Gerry Gagne and
d Bill Jean pending reappointment.
- c. Spring and warmer and better weather is reflected on our roads and streets:
 - You probably noted the increase in traffic volume-have patience
 - More people are walking and biking – watch out for walkers and bicyclists.
 - Walkers/Joggers:
 - Walk/Jog against traffic
 - Wear reflective high visibility clothing even during the day
 - Stay off the pavement and on the shoulder
 - Pay attention to oncoming traffic and be ready to avoid.
 - Bicyclists:
 - Rules of road
 - Wear a helmet
 - Wear high visibility clothing and use warning lights
 - Motor Vehicle Operators:
 - Watch your speed because the Bedford Police are
 - Aggressive speed enforcement by the Department continues
 - Obey all signals-one traffic signal cycle is not worth a crash
 - Don't Text and Drive-it's the #1 cause of all crashes in Bedford; we doubled the number of distracted driving summonses issued and we will double it again this year.
 - Watch out for MOTORCYCLES
 - Watch out for walkers/jogger and bicyclists giving at least 3 feet clearance for a bicycle and another foot for every 10 MPH above 30.

- Don't drink and drive or use marijuana and drive we have an aggressive DUI program
- MOVE OVER LAW – give our officers a break and obey the move over law it could save their life.

IX. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was accepted at 08:09 AM.

Note: "Any person with a disability who wishes to attend this public meeting and needs to be provided a reasonable accommodation in order to participate, please call the Committee's Secretary, Ms. Robinson, at 792-1333, at least 72 hours in advance so arrangements can be made."

Police Chief, John Bryfonski – Chair
Fire Chief, Scott Hunter – Vice Chair
Public Works, Jeff Foote - Director
Councilor, Lori Radke
Alternate Councilor: Kelleigh Murphy
Resident, Bill Jean
Resident, Madonna Lovett Repeta
Resident-Alternate, Gerry Gagne
Resident-Alternate, Ken Peterson
School Transportation Coordinator, Anne Wiggin