

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

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

- I. Call to Order 7:15 a.m.**
- II. Quorum Count**
- III. Approval of the April 23, 2019 minutes.**

MOTION by Jerry Gagne to accept the minutes of the April 23, 2019 meeting, **second** by Bill Duschatko. **Vote taken – Motion Passed.** Abstentions: Director Jeff Foote.

IV. New Business

- 1. Route 101 and Bedford Center Road Traffic Concerns.

Chief Bryfonski: In May the HSC was contacted by a resident complaining of a vehicle making an illegal left hand turn from Bedford Center Rd onto 101 eastbound which almost caused a collision. The citizen wanted officers posted there to prevent illegal left hand turns. When the construction began a year ago the PD and DPW approached DOT to post Bedford Center Rd. for no left hand turns at route 101 this being the first initial safety action that was taken to prevent left turns from Bedford Center Rd onto 101 eastbound. Plans prior to the citizen's complaint to eliminate left turns as a result of a median were anticipated by the PD/DPW. The PD vigorously enforced the no left turn prohibition issuing more than \$4,000 in citations noting only one collision in a year was caused by making an illegal left turn. Once complete, a median on 101 will prohibit left turns from Bedford Center Road to 101 east; however, recently a citizen following GPS directions actually went the wrong direction on 101; thus, signage may be necessary to alert motorists. It is important that people pay attention to the rules of the road.

Jeff Foote: At this time Bedford Center Rd. is closed for the phase that there are in. When it reopens it will be right in and right out.

- 2. New Boston Road Speed and No-Passing Zone between Wallace & McAllister.

Chief Bryfonski: In July Mr. Aaron Goulette, 166 New Boston Road contacted the HSC and the Town to voice concern that the new pavement on New Boston Road between Wallace and McAllister will result in increased speed and thereby reduce safety. Mr. Goulette stated he contacted DOT before contacting the Highway Safety Committee (HSC) and learned the HSC formally requested DOT reduce the speed limit on New Boston between Wallace and McAllister and to eliminate the passing zone in that area in 2014. Mr. Goulette indicated DOT told him DOT rejected the HSC requests. Extra traffic enforcement patrols have been posted on New Boston Rd.

Chief Bryfonski: Reviewed Bedford Police Department data from 2013 and 2014 for traffic volume and speed on New Boston Rd between Wallace and McAllister, which indicated a significant percentage of traffic was traveling greater than 46 mph. Prior to obtaining the 2014 data the HSC asked the Southern

NH Planning Commission to conduct a signal warrant study for McAllister and New Boston intersection; however, the commission determined the intersection did not meet the criteria for a signal.

Director Foote: DOT paving on New Boston was now substantially complete.

Chief Bryfonski: The Bedford Police Department has increased traffic enforcement patrols along New Boston already; however, the enforcement patrols will be temporarily discontinued while we obtain new data on speed/volume. The Town Manager also emailed DOT expressing the Town Council's request to eliminate the passing zone on New Boston between Wallace and McAllister and was advised that DOT would consider re-striping at a later date to eliminate the passing zone.

Director Foote: Restriping at a later date is encouraging.

Chief Bryfonski: We can Table this for a future meeting pending additional data.

Councilor Duschatko: We need to keep this in mind as this is a troublesome area and especially now with the repaving.

The HSC was in unanimous agreement to table this matter pending receipt and review of new data.

V. Community Announcements and Informational Comments

1. Route 101 construction: Please allow for extra time be cautious of the lane shifts and keep your speed down in the construction zone. Construction at Route 101/114 intersection will begin in September primarily night work.
2. DPW working on Liberty Hill Rd please allow extra time. Director Foote: phase 1 is substantially complete. Phase II is currently under construction and should be completed in the next couple of weeks. Phase III should be completed by school opening. By closing the road to local traffic it allows DPW and the construction firms to get the work done faster, more efficiently and it is safer for the public.
3. Drunk driving: DWI arrests are up by 83% this year compared to last year at this time. Save a life and don't drive drunk. During May BPD arrested 14 drunk drivers; almost one every other day; primarily on evening and midnight shifts. SAVE A LIFE DON'T DRIVE DRUNK.
4. MV DATA FIRST 6-MONTHS OF 2018
MVAS DOWN 12% COMPARED TO LAST YEAR (-42)
PERSON INJURY CRASHES DOWN 30% (-14)
SUMMONS/TICKETS UP 21% (+305 TO 1,732)
WARNINGS UP 72% (+1,560/TO 3,714)

Motion by Jerry Gagnon to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Duschatko **motion passed all in favor.**

Meeting adjourned 7:41 am
Respectfully submitted
Charlene T. Robinson, HSC Secretary