

**TOWN OF BEDFORD
HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES
September 25, 2018**

A meeting of the Bedford Highway Safety Committee (HSC) was held on Tuesday, September 25, 2018 in the Bedford Meeting Room, 10 Meetinghouse Road (BCTV). Present were John J. Bryfonski (Chief of Police/Chair), Kelleigh Murphy (Town Council), Bill Duschatko (Town Council Alternate), Madonna Lovett Repeta (Resident), Jerry Gagne (Alternate Resident) and Ken Peterson (Alternate Resident). Scott Wiggin (Fire Chief/Vice-Chair) Bill Jean (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 July 24, 2018 minutes.**

MOTION by Madonna Lovett Repeta to accept the minutes of the July 24, 2018 meeting, second by Bill Duschatko. Vote taken – Motion Passed. Abstentions: Kelleigh Murphy.

- IV. Correspondence/Communications**
- V. Sub Committee Reports/None**
- VI. New Business**

1. Traffic Concerns Pilgrim and Puritan Drive.

Chief Bryfonski: Approximately a year and a half ago the Highway Safety Committee (HSC) reviewed the speed limit on Pilgrim Drive pursuant to a request from resident(s) concerned about the speed of vehicles on Pilgrim Drive and the threat posed to pedestrians and specifically children as there are no sidewalks on this road. At that time, Pilgrim was posted at 30 miles per hour (mph).

After review and analysis, the HSC recommended the Town Council reduce the speed limit on Pilgrim from 30 mph to 25 mph based upon an analysis conducted by the Police Department, which included inclinometer tests.

In anticipation of planned reconstruction of Route 101, and in consideration that some motorists would likely use Pilgrim to avoid Route 101 construction between Meetinghouse and the intersection of Colonial at Route 101; a comparative analysis of volume prior to construction and data obtain circa May 2018 indicated an approximate increase of 134 vehicles per day between May 2015 and May 2018.

Data from the So. NH Planning Commission:

- 1. May 2015 SNHPC at our request acquired both speed and volume data:
 - a. AVG Weekday Volume: 405
 - b. Peak Volume: 4-5PM

- c. Speed: (Note Limit 30 MPH): 60% within tolerance or lower; 50% > 30MPH
 - d. Location: Pilgrim east of Puritan
2. 21MAY – 01JUN2018 SNHPC Volume Only:
- a. AVG DAY: 534 or 129 vehicles more on average than 2015
 - b. Peak Volume: 0700; 1400; 1600-1700; falls of at 1800

Christina McKeon - 31 Pilgrim Dr: Ms. McKeon stated she appreciates all the work that has been done, but is more concerned of the children in the area not the data and wants to know how this problem can be solved and wants to feel safe in the neighborhood. She has seen cars pass other cars that are going too slow. A signed petition by the neighbors (on file) to have a 3 way stop installed at each intersections of Pilgrim and Puritan Dr., was presented to the HSC and was not sure if this is this answer, however, Ms. McKeon indicated she wished to know what can be done to reduce the speed of vehicles on Pilgrim.

Nancy Lundquist - 38 Pilgrim Dr: Ms. Lundquist stated she and her neighbors are suggesting a 3 way stop sign at the corner of Puritan and Pilgrim to slow the cars down that are cutting through and possibly deter them from using this as a cut-through route as well as reduced speed and volume. Looking at injuries, speed is the one thing that is a non-controversial factor when it comes to injuries for pedestrians that are struck by vehicles. If the 3 way stop is not the solution what could be a solution?

Ken Peterson: Unfortunately this is an issue throughout the entire town; Mr. Peterson indicated that speeding and traffic violations are prevalent everywhere, citing his own experiences in his neighborhood.

Madonna Lovett Repeta: Ms. Repeta indicated the problem is likely related to Route 101 construction forcing people to seek shortcuts.

Ms. Lundquist: With Trader Joe's etc. coming, this probably will increase volume going through our area, seems like no end in sight.

Ms. Murphy: When the Route 101 construction project is complete, will Colonial be the only left hand turn that is allowed before Meetinghouse?

Chief Bryfonski: Yes, I believe so, however, I do not have the plans here and know the plans had changed. I believe the intersection at Shaw Dr. and Route 101 (west) is restricted to public safety vehicles only (left turn); thus, Colonial may be the last left turn allowed prior to Meetinghouse.

Chief Bryfonski: The Town of Bedford adheres to the Municipal Uniform Code for Traffic Devices (MUCTD), which indicates the use of stop signs for speed control are contraindicated. From an engineering and a law enforcement perspective motorists who perceive a stop sign as a speed control device tend not to stop, which may on occasion induce intersection crashes. This causes us concern when proposing the use of stop signs to control speed. Speeding is endemic not just in Bedford but throughout the State of NH. The Bedford Police Department continues to deploy intensive traffic enforcement patrols as well as our radar trailers and radar speed sign(s); the Department is and remains very attentive to cut through traffic and speed issues throughout Bedford.

Jerry Gagne: At the public hearing for the Route 101 construction project the drawing does show Colonial as the only left hand turn. As we have seen in the past, people roll through the stop signs then they pick up speed to make up for the delay that they incurred at the stop sign; thus, use of stop signs to control speed creates more of a problem than it does in solving the problem.

Ms. McKeon: Question to Mr. Gagne being an engineer – what is a good solution? We will do whatever we need to do to take care of this situation.

Ms. Lundquist: Is there any way for only local traffic to pass through during the times of high traffic?

Chief Bryfonski: A Town Ordinance would be required to post Pilgrim/Colonial for “local traffic only” to make it subject to enforcement. In addition, merely posting for local traffic only would not dissuade everyone and likely require additional traffic enforcement patrols.

The neighborhood (Pilgrim - Puritan – Colonial Dr.) was designed with those curves as a traffic and speed calming device as opposed as being a straight through road. We can review and consider the use of stop signs along the route but I am not necessarily sure the use of stop signs to slow traffic would be a long term solution. I feel traffic enforcement control is a more effective solution to the problem. The Police Department will make arrangements to re-install the radar speed sign, however we only have one and we are shuffling it around town right now.

Ms. McKeon: The radar speed sign did help.

Chief Bryfonski: There is a little bit of a shoulder on the other side of the road, which gives you a place to walk in some cases, as opposed to some other neighborhoods/roads in town where there are no shoulders to walk. We encourage all pedestrians to wear reflective clothing and to walk against traffic. I do think there will be a change once the construction is on Route 101 finished.

Ken Peterson: At the transfer station there was a stop sign at the bottom of the hill to stop cars, and the cars just drove through it. I lobbied to have the stop sign removed and it was. Chief, could we look at one 3 way stop instead of having 2 in succession. The 3 way stop at the corner of Brick Mill and Ledgewood has done a great job.

Chief Bryfonski: I am not opposed to taking a look at the possibility of 3 way stops and could consider a temporary 3 way noting any temporary stop would not be enforceable (you cannot ticket) it would be just for study purposes.

Mr. Gagne: Where is the major volume?

Chief Bryfonski: AM northbound – PM southbound.

Mr. Gagne: Some of the concerns might go away with the completion of the construction.

Chief Bryfonski: Yes, I agree. We can have DPW and the PD take a look at the 3 way stop sites to determine if one or two are viable for monitoring.

Ms. Lovett Repeta: I think we should do this to see if it helps or not.

Mr. Peterson: I agree.

Chief Bryfonski: If it is the consensus of the committee I believe we do not need a motion. We can recommend that the PD and DPW study the viability of 3 way stops on Pilgrim/Colonial and Puritan Dr. areas and consider whether or not we should induce temporary 3 way stops at one or both of the locations and monitor the traffic for a period of time to see what or if any improvements may arise as a result.

ACTION: The HSC members agreed to request DPW and the PD review Pilgrim/Colonial to determine whether temporary 3-way stop sign(s) could be posted.

Community Announcements:

1. Red Ribbon Week October 23 to October 31, 2018. Please visit BeBOLD's website www.BeBOLDBEDFORD.org to learn more.
2. Now that school is open, please follow School Bus Safety and school speed zone areas.
3. Construction zone enforcement – Please pay attention to your speed when approaching construction areas.
4. Fall is here, please make sure that your car windows are clear from frost and dew before you leave in the morning so that you can see oncoming traffic and pedestrians.
5. As the days get shorter, please be cognizant of walkers, joggers etc. Walkers, joggers, etc. please wear reflective clothing, carry a light and walk against the traffic and bicyclists please observe the bicycle rules.

We encourage everyone to stay safe on our roads and streets in Bedford as we suffer through a period of intense construction.

Meeting adjourned 7:52 am

Respectfully submitted
Charlene T. Robinson
Highway Safety Committee Secretary