



**TOWN OF BEDFORD
HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES**

October 26, 2021

A meeting of the Bedford Highway Safety Committee (HSC) was held on Tuesday, October 26, 2021 in the Bedford Meeting Room, 10 Meetinghouse Road (BCTV). Present were John J. Bryfonski (Chief of Police/Chair), Scott Hunter (Fire Chief/Vice Chair), Jeff Foote (Director of Public Works), Lori Radke (Town Council), Kelleigh Murphy (Alternate Town Council), Bill Jean (Resident), Jerry Gagne (Alternate Resident), Ken Peterson (Alternate Resident). Absent were Anne Wiggin (School Bus Coordinator) and Madonna Lovett Repeta (Resident).

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

II. Quorum Count:

III. Approval of Minutes from September 28, 2021

Motion by Lori Radke to accept the September 28, 2021 meeting minutes, **seconded** by Bill Jean. **Vote taken – Motion Passed. Abstentions: Councilor Kelleigh Murphy.**

IV. Correspondence/Communications

A. No Correspondence to report.

V. Sub Committee Reports

A. None-

VI. New Business:

A. Request for Caution/Blind Driveway or Slow down Hidden/Blind Driveway vicinity of 136 Jenkins Road.

On October 4, 2021, the Highway Safety Committee (HSC) received an application for a cautionary sign from Sivraj Muralikrishnan (resident) at 136 Jenkins Road. [Note: Each committee member was provided a copy of the form request, which is attached to the minutes.]

In the sign request the resident stated, “The driveway to my house exits directly onto Jenkins Road at the end of a bend on the road. Many cars drive fast on this bend of the road without understanding that our driveway exits directly onto it at the end of that bend. Our eyesight is somewhat limited because of the bend but also because our driveway is on an incline. We have an 8-month-old child and are worried about getting into an accident when exiting our driveway. We hope there can be some signage that will notify drivers of our blind driveway at the end of the bend, so they can slow down and be cautious.”

[Note: Committee members were provided two Google map views of the area surrounding 136 Jenkins Road as well as several images of the approaches from both directions. The map image, and roadside images depict Jenkins Road has a curve when approaching the resident's house from the north (heading south) that limits sight distance.

The speed limit on Jenkins Road is posted at 30 MPH.

The only data we have on speed for Jenkins is unfortunately dated:

Analysis Dates: Monday, August 26, 2013 - Monday, September 02, 2013
Nearest Cross Street: Christmas Tree Circle
Posted Speed Limit: 30 MPH
Enforcement Tolerance: 12 MPH
Enforcement Limit: 43 MPH & Up
Percentage Above Limit: 15.5%
Enforcement Rating: HIGH

Southbound: Percent Above Limit: 28.0% Enforcement Rating: HIGH
Northbound: Percent Above Limit: 1.9% -Enforcement Rating: LOW

Another evaluation was conducted in 2014 on Jenkins near Smithfield:
Analysis Dates: Friday, June 27, 2014 -Monday, July 07, 2014
Total Vehicles: 18,416
AVG per Day: 1,674 (11 days) or 2,046 (9) factoring out partial data acquisition dates.
Posted Speed Limit: 30 MPH
Enforcement Tolerance: 10 MPH
Enforcement Limit: 41 MPH & Up
Percentage Above Limit: 6.9%
Enforcement Rating: MEDIUM
Southbound: Percent Above Limit: 9.1% -Enforcement Rating: HIGH.]

Ken Peterson: Indicated signs generally tend to be a waste, however, "Caution Blind Driveway" signs do get my attention.

Councilor Radke: I agree with Mr. Peterson. What about a reflective mirror?

Chief Bryfonski: Mirrors do not work well at night and they are only good for sight distance based on mirror placement.

Councilor Murphy: I do not agree that signs are a waste. I do agree with Mr. Peterson that signage would be appropriate at this location.

Director Foote: This has been a difficult year for Public Works, we received a lot of precipitation throughout the summer and unfortunately both of our roadside mowers have been broken/in disrepair at various times. A new roadside mower is due in this week. We have not been able to keep up foliage removal and roadside growth to maintain sight distances at intersections. When the bridge was rebuilt in 2013, we worked with the previous owner (136 Jenkins) and for almost 10 years, we have not had an issue. I am not sure how long this new owner has been there and recommend we defer (action on signage) until we (DPW) can clear up the roadside vegetation as we

normally do, versus putting up another sign. In one of the photos, I did notice going northbound there is a “warning curve sign” we could perhaps put another placard underneath that. I do not recall any correspondence with DPW about any vegetation issue. This is the first that I hear of this and I believe if we have the opportunity to clear up the vegetation there would be no sight issue.

Chief Bryfonski: We have options: to recommend or not recommend cautionary signage or to defer until DPW has an opportunity to remove some of the growth and foliage after which, DPW can confer with the resident once the foliage is removed to determine whether or not the resident still wants the sign.

Director Foote: Ok.

Chief Bryfonski: With no further comment, we can table this, giving DPW the opportunity to conduct roadside foliage mitigation in this area then confer with the resident and come back to this committee if a sign is needed.

Motion by Chief Bryfonski: “To recommend the Highway Safety Committee (HSC) table the request from the resident at 136 Jenkins Rd. for cautionary/blind driveway signage until the Department of Public Works conducts roadside foliage mitigation and clearance and confers with the resident to determine whether or not cautionary/blind driveway signage is still necessary and if the resident still believes a sign is necessary then a sign can be placed. **Seconded by Ken Peterson and Councilor Murphy. Motion passed all in favor.**

VII. Old Business

A. Request for a crosswalk sign at Quincy Dr./Ledgewood Rd. and a section of sidewalk from Ledgewood Rd to Hannaford Market.

Action taken by this committee reference our meeting on September 28th.

The Police Department requested the Southern NH Planning Commission’s assistance in determining the number of pedestrians walking from Quincy/Ledgewood intersection to the Hannaford Market.

The equipment was installed last week and will remain in place for a couple of weeks after which we will provide you the results.

B. Request for 4-Way Stop at the intersection of Palomino Lane and Woodbury.

Action taken by the committee at our September 28, 2021 meeting to recommend the intersection at Palomino Lane and Woodbury Lane become a 4-way stop instead of the current 2-Way Stop is scheduled before the Town Council at its next regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, October 27th.

C. Powder Hill Rd. – Speeding

Councilor Murphy: I was contacted after the last HSC meeting by three (3) residents of Powder Hill Rd. wanting to raise their concerns.

There was a comment Powder Hill Rd. not being a cut through from point A to point B. Living on Hawk Dr. I feel both Powder Hill and Hawk are both cut through where vehicles are moving very quickly. Another concern is at the top of the hill where 58% of the cars were measured going over 30 mph and where the enforcement tolerance is 40 mph. the concern is that 40 mph is too fast for the neighborhood. The specific request from the residents is that they have not seen more directed patrols and wish to get directed patrol. Also, can the enforcement tolerance be closer to the 30-mph mark?

Chief Bryfonski: The data indicated 82% of the vehicles measured from both directions (on Powder Hill Road) were at or below 30 mph. Directed patrols on Powder Hill Road have been conducted, however, I do not have the number of patrols conducted with me today. I do believe the majority of the traffic on Powder Hill Road is comprised of residents and request everyone's patience as this is one of many neighborhoods who have concerns for speed which, the Police Department is attempting to address contingent upon staffing and calls for service noting the Department is responsible for 200 miles of roads and 32 square miles with four officers competing against more than 50,000 incidents annually. As I previously stated in prior meetings, speeding is endemic not only in Bedford but in NH generally.

Director Foote: Since the last meeting Public Works introduced three (3) speed limit signs, one as you turn off of New Boston Rd onto Chesterfield, the Bedford 30 MPH unless otherwise posted. Two to three speed limit signs were posted on Powder Hill to remind people. Speed issues are everywhere, it's an epidemic.

VIII. Comments or Concerns

A. None

A. Community Announcements:

1. The Fall "CUB" cleanup Day on October 16th; took place; thanks to all who participated in making Bedford's roadsides more presentable.
2. Red Ribbon Week is October 23-31 which also incorporated Drug Take Back Day.

Red Ribbon Week is a national campaign to draw attention to substance abuse.

Red Ribbon Week originally started out to commemorate the kidnapping, torture and murder of DEA Special Agent Enrique Camarena in Mexico in 1985 and has since blossomed into a celebration of his sacrifice and one that calls attention to substance abuse.

Nationally, there were more than 90,000 drug related deaths the previous year measured by the CDC; that's more than all the service members who died in Viet Nam, Iraq, Afghanistan, and D-Day combined.

Here in NH, last year there were 417 drug related overdose deaths virtually unchanged from 2019 at 415.

Since 2011, NH lost 3,627 persons to fatal drug overdoses averaging 360 fatal drug overdoses a year.

2011 201

2012 163
2013 198
2014 342
2015 444
2016 486
2017 490
2018 471
2019 415
2020 417

Here in Bedford, we've had two (2) fatal drug overdoses so far in 2021.

Recent data from AMR reflects an increase in drug overdoses in the state's two largest cities.

Most of the overdose deaths are caused by a combination of heroin/fentanyl, now mostly fentanyl.

Here in Bedford, 2019 YRBS data shows increased use of marijuana (MJ) by Bedford High School (BHS) students who used MJ in the past 30-days from 17.1% to 20.9% with 37.5% of 12 grade students using MJ in last 30-days.

33 students reported using heroin one or more times in their lifetime

125 students reporting taking prescription drugs without a prescription one or more times.

246 students reported they were offered, sold, or given an illegal drug on school property during the past 12 months.

Number and Percent of students who think people are at great risk of harming themselves (physically or in other ways) if they use marijuana once or twice a week down from 29.2% in 2013 to 15.3% in 2019.

The substance abuse and drug overdose death tragedy knows no socio-economic boundaries and strikes families from all walks of life.

Red Ribbon Week is just one time when we need to think about the lives lost and the need to focus on ways to continue to address this problem.

IX. Motion made to adjourn by Councilor Murphy - Seconded by Mr. Peterson Motion passed all in favor at 7:41 am.