

Traffic Safety Work Group

September 23, 2020

9:45 AM

Via Zoom Meeting

Committee Attendees: Michael Weisburger-Chair; Sgt. Patricia McGraw-Police Dept.; Jeff Osterman-Planning Dept. Kevin Winn-Highway Dept.; Mary Cassidy; Whitney Hill; Geraldine Zikely

Committee Members Not in Attendance: Don Scott; Drew Marciano; Chris Burdick

Town of Bedford Staff: Maria Arena-Police Dept.

Guest Attendees: Gus Carlson; Lynn Eriksen; Andrew Faneuil; Rosemary Lee; Joe Pecararo; Jeffrey Schwartz; Andy Yu; Aggie Zaro - Residents

REQUESTS/CONCERNS:

1. Harris Rd. and Babbitt

- Speeding – drivers only slowdown in school zone
- Speed boards only in school zone, not on Harris Rd.
- Poor visibility/sight distance

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS/RESPONSE:

- A. Speed Study: - 85th percentile is 35 mph or less.
- B. Find a recordable spot on north side of Babbitt and put pole up for speed board.
- C. Speed boards do have a measureable effect on drivers
- D. Speed study to be done on Harris Rd. in front of Mews Condos

2. Corner of Girdle Ridge

- Dangerous bus pick up spot; bad curve and not easily seen
- Speed limit sign covered by overgrown ivy
- Sign not in optimal visual position
- Mirror on opposite side of street broken

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS/RESPONSE:

- A. Highway department to trim back overgrown foliage and move sign for better visibility
- B. Speed Study: - 85th percentile is 33 mph
- C. Mirror property of resident; not the town
- D. Police department does monitor and issue tickets on Girdle Ridge
- E. Additional warnings to existing signs could be put up but not effective
- F. Suggestion to call School Transportation Department to have bus stop changed to a safer pick up location.

3. Appleby Drive

- Speeding – drivers coming off Pound Ridge Rd.
- Blind curve and narrow street
- Street is a cut through
- Suggested speed humps
- Request “Children at Play” sign
- Residents put out cones

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS/RESPONSE:

- A. Speed Study-85th percentile; less than 26 mph; below town speed limit
- B. Speed boards are only effective in areas where speeding is occurring
- C. Education or public shaming for repeat offenders
- D. Cones narrow street further and could cause a liability issue for resident if accident occurs
- E. Speed humps slow down emergency vehicles too

4. Guard Hill and Clinton

- Since March, increase in traffic congestion both vehicular and on foot
- People working from home and/or family members moved in
- Rippawan Cisqua School traffic since campuses combined
- 30 mph speed limit high for dirt road
- Can't use speed humps on dirt road
- School buses speed

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS/RESPONSE:

- A. Speed study has been started
- B. Suggestion to call School Transportation Department re: speeding buses and/or change route to school off of Clinton
- C. Education at Rippawan Cisqua

5. Jay Street

- Speed and accident concerns
- Visibility issue from driveway
- Requests more signage or flashing lights
- Put up suggested advisory sign to lower speed to "20 mph"
- Inclement weather could possibly cause other issues

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS/RESPONSE:

- A. Speed studies have been done
- B. Stop sign on Barrett has helped
- C. Cannot put stop sign on opposite side due to hill
- D. Inclement weather or back up from Rte. 22 would be an issue.
- E. "20 mph" placard to be put up

6. Bedford Hills

- Lack of parking due to large trucks and trailers
- Delivery trucks double parking
- Speed
- Pedestrian safety
- Visibility issues
- Illegal parking in private lots
- Suggests diverting large trucks

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS/RESPONSE:

- A. Law states local deliveries only and anything in Town of Bedford is considered local
- B. Private lots need to have clear signage
- C. Call police if trucks are double parked or laws being broken

7. Buxton Rd.

- Speed Study - 85th percentile is 33 mph
- No available telephone pole or one close enough to road to get accurate speed study
- Road cannot be considered for speed humps; almost all hills and turns
- Speed and advisory signs already exist

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS/RESPONSE:

- A. Signs for safe places to access Buxton Gorge are being looked into
- B. Looking into appropriate pole to put temporary speed board to slow down traffic in certain sections
- C. Consider putting additional advisory signs

8. Anderson Rd.

- Suggestion for double yellow line down entire road
- Mandatory on roads with over 4500 cars/day – this road does not qualify
- Some residents extremely opposed
- No significant accident history

9. Matthews Mill Rd.

- Residents wanted speed humps
- Speed study showed it was under limit
- Only four homes – “Children at Play” sign noted
- Used to slow traffic down

10. Huntville and New St. Corner

- Bushes trimmed and done
- Simple fixes get done rather quickly

11. Valley Rd.

- Concern of volume of vehicles
- Speed Study - 85th percentile is 30 mph
- Follow up next meeting when resident representation is available

UPDATES:

1. Bicyclists

- Cyclist killed in Pound Ridge
- Consider working with state to lower Rte. 35, speed limit past Rte. 22 from 55 mph to 45 mph
- Rte. 172/Rte.22 already successfully lowered
- No record of complaints; therefore cyclists don't know the issues
- May not be organized groups but local cyclists

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS/RESPONSE:

- A. Call Police if cyclists are not following rules of the road
- B. Email to go out to Officers
- C. Westchester Safety Coordinator to send survey to cyclists for suggestions
- D. Message board during peak periods reminding both motorists and cyclists of the laws/rules of the road
- E. Transportation Committee Comprehensive Plan – Possible Government Transportation Bill will include funding for vulnerable road users. Town Projects can be applied for

2. Croton Lake Rd. /Cherry St.

- Highway to address this with homeowners
- Follow up during striping season again

Time was provided for members to discuss items not on the agenda.

2020 Meeting Schedule

(Meetings are held in the second floor conference room at the Town Offices at 425 Cherry Street)

Wednesday, 3/18/20 @ 9:45 AM – CANCELLED (Due to COVID-19)

Wednesday, 5/20/20 @ 10:45 AM – ZOOM Meeting

Wednesday, 7/22/20 @ 9:45 AM – ZOOM Meeting

Wednesday, 9/23/20 @ 9:45 AM – ZOOM Meeting

Wednesday, 11/18/20 @ 9:45 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Arena
Senior Office Assistant
Bedford Police Department