

Meeting Minutes
Traffic Safety Committee
May 28, 2019
8:30 AM

Call to order: A regular meeting of the Traffic Safety Committee was held on May 28, 2019. The meeting convened at 8:30 AM.

Members in attendance: Sergei Krasikov (SK), Gabriel Pages (GP), John Drew (JD), Mike Manzi (MM), Lt. Sands Frost (SF), Matt Dubetski (MD), Chief Gary VanVoorhis (GV), and Collin Milone (CM).

Members not in attendance: Gary Barrack (GB)

Old business:

Sargent School

Issue: SF brought up that he got a call from a resident about cars speeding by Sargent School going east down the hill on Wolcott Avenue across from the Elks Club.

Committee Recommendation: SF will send, and has been sending, cars to the location occasionally.

Follow up: This item is closed. SF said the solution is working and the PD will continue to write tickets.

Union and Prospect/Green Street Park

Issue: Adjusting pedestrian access to coincide with renovations to Green Street Park.

Committee Recommendation: The Committee decided to paint two crosswalks and put up two crosswalk signs. The crosswalks will be on the sidewalk-side of Union and the sidewalk-side of Prospect.

Committee Follow-up: This item is closed. Mark Price has incorporated the crosswalks and signs into the plan for Green Street Park.

Spring Valley

Issue: Parking problem on Spring Valley extending from Churchill Street during Can Releases at Hudson Valley Brewery.

Committee Recommendations: SF to have PD monitor. MD will ask Dave Buckley to find out who owns the strip of property adjacent to the wooded area across from houses where people are parking.

Committee Follow-Up: SF sent emails to PD to keep an eye on the situation whenever there is a can release. PD will monitor every time. Having a new parking lot in the area helps, there hasn't been an issue since the lot has been completed. The City of Beacon owns the property.

Prospect and Alice

Issue: Parking signage is confusing; **No Parking Between Signs** sign may be missing a sign.

Committee Recommendation: MM to put up missing sign on north side of intersection.

Committee Follow-up: The sign is now up and this item is closed.

Howland and Robinson intersection

SF reported that the bushes have been cleared. MD noted another complaint has been received. Committee decided to close the matter.

Committee Recommendation: MM will work with Dave Buckley to have a closer look.

New Business

Liberty Street and Wilson Street

A resident sent a letter which can be found below:

We, the residents of Liberty St and Wilson St neighborhoods btw Stone Rd and Washington Ave, want to draw attention to speeding and unsafe driving in our area and propose some measures to help solve these issues.

Overview

With a lot of young families moving in in recent years, our small neighborhood, without counting Round Tree Court development, has close to 20 children under the age of 7. Given we have no sidewalks, there are constantly kids on skates, bikes, scooters or simply running on the streets. It's a tight-knit community, many kids are friends and it is not unusual to see 6-10 kids on the street at a time. We as parents do our best to guarantee safety of our kids, but unfortunately there are systematic occurrences of speeding and distracted driving. There are also a couple areas that are especially dangerous due to the traffic patterns & visibility.

Additionally, we have a severely autistic child living at 55 Wilson St. and a deaf older person at 386 Liberty St. Being less than a mile from Forrestal Elementary School there are many kids who walk or ride their bikes to school. We also see a lot of pedestrian & bike traffic coming from the The Lofts at Beacon via Bridge St. bridge.

To foster a more walkable & bikeable city and ensure safety of kids and adults alike, we are proposing the following changes. We are eager to hear about additional measures the Highway Department, Police Department, Traffic Safety Commission and Mr. Mayor can propose to this end.

This proposal is supported by the majority of residents. Full list with names, addresses and signatures will be presented at the Traffic Safety Committee meeting on May 28th together with other supporting materials.

Please refer to the attached map mock up with locations of signs, etc.

1. Reduce traffic speed in the whole area btw Stone St. and Washington Ave to 25 mph. Alternative proposal - to reduce the area traffic to 25 mph on all roads north of East Main and west of Washington Ave.
2. Install yellow "15 mph speed limit, watch for children" signs on northbound Liberty St. near the one lane bridge at Stone St and east/southbound on

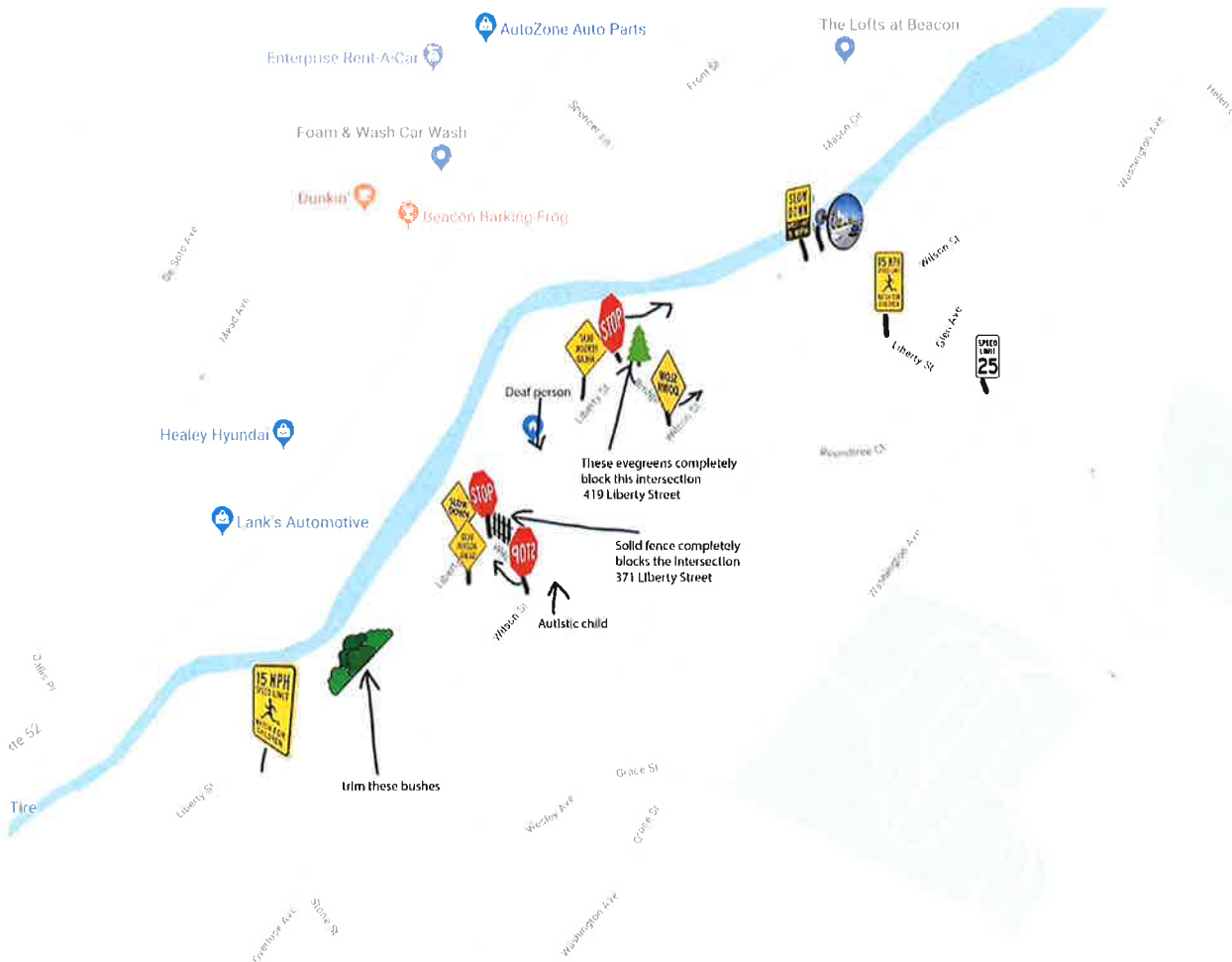
Liberty St before a fork of Wilson St. and one way section of Liberty St.

3. Install Stop All Way signs at Liberty St. and Bridge St. intersection.
Rationale: a) Many Liberty St. southbound cars go pretty fast through that intersection. Given that the Bridge Street has an incline going west, kids tend to go really fast towards the intersection and we already had a couple close calls. b) People routinely continue on northbound Liberty St. into one way section of the road - some navigator apps direct people that way). A Stop sign will make it more likely the drivers would register Do Not Enter sign.
4. 419 Liberty Street property, NE corner of Liberty St. and Bridge St., has dense evergreens that make it impossible for the drivers going south on Liberty St. to see if there is anybody going west on Bridge St., or for people on Bridge St. to see if there are cars coming. Ask the owners of 419 Liberty St. to trim down evergreens obstructing visibility. NOTE: 4-way Stop sign will likely alleviate the need for trimming.
5. Install Stop All Way signs on Liberty St. and Wilcox St. intersection.
Rationale: a) Quite a few drivers "fly" on Liberty St. from Stone St. to Bridge St. or vice versa, a stop sign in the middle of the block will make that almost impossible. b) Because of the southbound incline on Liberty St., bikes, skaters, scooters, etc move pretty fast near this intersection, cars turning from Wilcox St. to Liberty St. are a constant threat now, especially with a solid fence at NE corner at 371 Liberty St. obstructing the view of the intersection.
6. Install Deaf Person Ahead signs on northbound Liberty St. prior to Wilcox St. intersection on the way to the house with a deaf person at 386 Liberty St.
7. Install Deaf Person Ahead sign on southbound Liberty St. after Bridge St. intersection on the way to the house with a deaf person at 386 Liberty St.
8. Install a curved mirror and 5mph recommended/Slow Down speed sign at a 90 degree turn on one way section of southbound Liberty St. right after the entrance to the water treatment plant. The road is very narrow and drivers cannot see if there is anybody pass the turn. There were several occasions when people were "burning rubber" in the turn and came within inches of one of the dads pressing the kid against a guard rail.
9. Install Stop All Way signs on Wilcox St. and Wilson St. intersection.
Rationale: a) An autistic child lives on NE corner of the intersection. b) Some of the people living on Wilson St. south of the intersection routinely drive very fast on Wilson, several attempts by the community to talk to them didn't head results. c) Northbound

cars on Wilson St. often turn to Wilcox St. at high speed, the view is obstructed by vegetation, parked cars etc and there is a high risk of drivers

hitting kids on Wilcox St.

10. Install Slow Down sign on southbound Wilson St. after Bridge St. intersection - autistic child lives further down that street.
11. Trim bushes on southbound Liberty St. approaching one lane bridge prior to Stone St. There is Limited Visibility sign there, trimming bushes a couple times a year by a couple feet would greatly increase visibility. Non-local cars often approach the bridge at over 30 mph and there is not much room to escape them. Increased visibility would help both the pedestrians and the drivers to to know what's coming.
12. Outreach to the area taxi services. One of the repeated complaints from neighbours are speeding taxis.
13. Place a temporary radar speed sign on Liberty St. after implementing the above measures.



Committee Recommendation: SF will set up traffic data collector in the neighborhood to acquire speed data. He will also send PD to the area to monitor the situation. This item is still open, a discussion will take place at the next meeting based upon the data.

Sycamore Drive

The Home Owners Association requested No Parking signs on the north side of Sycamore Drive on Sargent Avenue to a point at the end of the stone wall and on the north side of Sycamore Drive on Sargent Avenue to a point at the end of the stone wall. They say there is a blind spot when cars park there.



View from Sycamore Drive looking south at Sargent Avenue



View from Sycamore Drive looking north at Sargent Avenue



View from Sycamore Drive looking south onto Sargent Avenue



Driver has to pull out this far on Sycamore Drive to see clearly before turning onto Sargent

Committee Recommendation: Since the city code already requires no parking signs on both sides of the street from Education Drive to Wolcott Avenue, MM will work with the SF to put the signs up.

Dutchess Terrace and Rockhill Road

Poor line of sight at the stop sign on Rockhill Road turning onto Dutchess Terrace both directions, particularly turning left. There are overgrown bushes in the way, and sometimes there's a truck parked half on the sidewalk half in the road near the intersection. Plus, people are blowing through the stop sign.

Committee Recommendation: SF will visit the area. CM to tell residents to call PD when the truck is parked illegally

Next meeting: June 25, 2019 at 8:30 AM

Respectfully Submitted by



Collin Milone, Assistant to Mayor



Date