

City of Beacon  
Traffic Safety Committee

August 27, 2019

Minutes

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## Open Issues

### 1. 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.

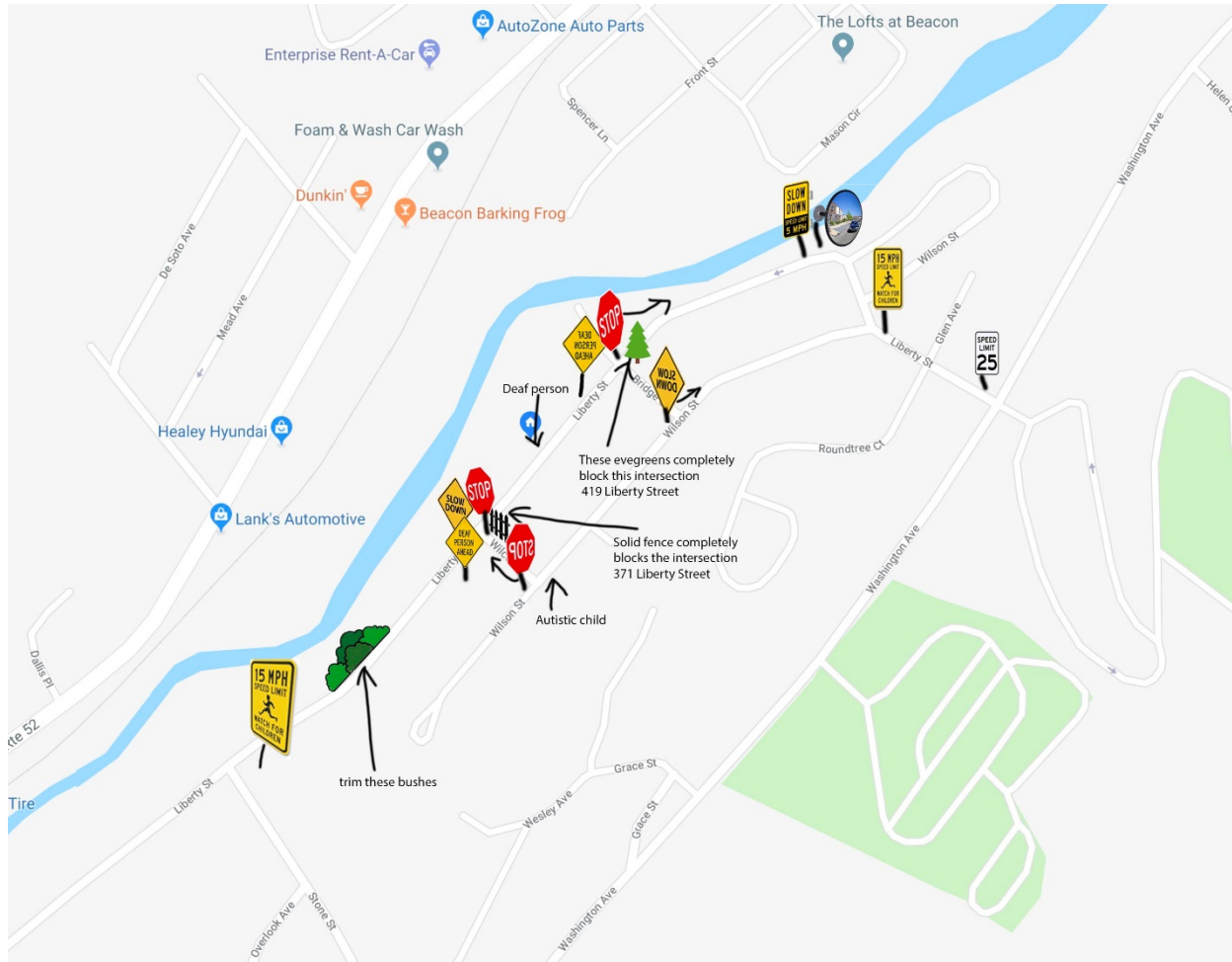
Please refer to the attached map mock up with locations of signs, etc.

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 25mph 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 a Stop Sign on a one-way section of southbound Liberty St. at Bridge St. Many 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.
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.
5. 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 plan. 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.
6. TBD - Install a DO NOT ENTER sign on NW corner of Liberty St. at Bridge St. Some navigator apps send people north on Liberty St. pass the Bridge St. even though it is a one way. There is a Do Not Enter sign on the east side of the road, but drivers miss it.
7. Install Slow Down and Deaf Person Ahead signs on northbound Liberty St. prior to Wilcox St. intersection on the way to the house with a deaf person.
8. Install Deaf Person Ahead sign on southbound Liberty St. after Bridge St. intersection on the way to the house with a deaf person.
9. 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 know what’s coming.
10. Install a Stop sign on Wilcox St. at Liberty St. intersection. The view at the intersection is obstructed by parked cars, a solid fence on NE corner at 371 Liberty St. Additionally, because of the southbound incline on Liberty St., bikes, skaters, scooters, etc move pretty fast near this intersection.
11. Install a Stop sign on Wilcox St. at Wilson St. intersection. An autistic child lives diagonally across that intersection.
12. Install Slow Down sign on southbound Wilson St. after Bridge St. intersection - autistic child lives further down that street.
13. Place a temporary radar speed sign on Liberty St. after implementing the above measures.

Looking forward to your feedback.

Sergei Krasikov, on behalf of Liberty St. and Wilson St. neighborhood.



*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.

*Committee Follow Up August 27<sup>th</sup>:* PD placed a traffic data counter on Liberty Street from June 10 – June 21. A total of 7,557 vehicles were counted. The average speed was 19 miles per hour. CM will write letter to complainants explaining the measures taken by PD. This item is closed.

## 2. Dutchess Terrace and Rockhill Road

*The Issue:* 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 and half in the road near the intersection. Plus, people are blowing through the stop sign.

*Committee Recommendation:* SF will visit the area. CM told residents to call PD when the truck is parked illegally. *Update:* CM got a call week of July 1 from same complainant with same complaints.

*Committee follow up on July 23:* MM will look at the brush to see if it is overgrown at the intersection. Item is still open.

*Committee follow up on August 27:* CM will relay to Dave Buckley that the brush is overgrown in the intersection at 16 Rockhill Road.

### 3. N. Elm and Oak

Below is a letter from Jamie Mulligan to the Traffic Safety Committee:

“It’s my (and some of my neighbors) contention that the intersections of Oak and Willow, and Oak and N Elm should both be four way stops.

We have multiple close encounters regularly, particularly with people not stopping when they need to, or stopping when they don’t need to. Both intersections seem to cause quite a bit of confusion.

Additionally, two days ago there was a significant accident on the latter corner, the root of which seems to have been confusion over who was supposed to stop.

Lastly, there is a preschool on the corner of Oak and Willow and it seems unnecessarily risky to not put in two stop signs when considering the parents and children doing drop-offs and pick-ups.”

*Committee Recommendation:* The Committee decided to make North Elm and Oak Street a four-way stop. There will be a Public Hearing on the matter on September 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7 pm in the Courtroom.

*Committee Follow Up:* The Council passed a resolution making this a four-way stop on September 3, 2019.

### 4. Main Street Handicap Parking

A letter from Stosh Yankowski regarding handicap parking on Main Street can be found at the end of this agenda.

*Committee Recommendation:* The Committee decided to take Mr. Yankowski’s recommendations under review. This item is open.

*Committee follow up on July 23:* Committee is considering the suggestions. CM will ask City Attorney about the legality of adding handicap parking.

*Committee follow up on August 27<sup>th</sup>:* This item is closed; no new parking spots will be added.

### 5. Cross Street Speed

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*The Issue:* KJ has been receiving complaints from one resident on Cross Street of people speeding. The Police Department has frequented the area and a speed data collector was placed on the street. The posted speed limit is 30 miles per hour. The average speed from over 8,000 cars over a 26-day period was 14 miles per hour.

*Committee Recommendation:* CM will write the resident a letter on behalf of the TSC stating that due diligence has been taken by the Police Department and the TSC to investigate any safety issue around speeding.

*Committee Follow Up:* This item was closed during the July meeting however; MD asked the Committee to look at parking on Cross Street. Please see “New Business”

*Committee Follow Up August 27<sup>th</sup>:* This item is closed, PD determined that speeding is a non-issue.

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6. Oak Street at Cross Street

*The Issue:* (Via Dutchess County Legislator Nick Page) Oak Street at Cross Street. Currently no stop signs at the T intersection.

*Committee Recommendation:* PD will monitor. Item is open.

*Committee Follow Up August 27<sup>th</sup>:* PD monitored and determined to close this issue.

7. Ralph Street at Cross Street

*The Issue:* (Via Dutchess County Legislator Nick Page) Ralph Street at Cross Street. Currently no stop signs at the T intersection.

*Committee Recommendation:* PD will monitor. Item is open.

*Committee Follow Up August 27<sup>th</sup>:* PD monitored and determined to close the issue.

8. Cross Street at West Church

*The Issue:* County Legislator Nick Page requested the TSC to consider the possibility of installing signage to keep the intersection corners clear and passable.

*Committee Recommendation:* Committee will consider adding “No Parking Here to Corner” signs on Cross Street at West Church. This item is open and will be discussed at the next meeting.

9. Mackin Avenue Speeding

*The Issue:* Residents would like the TSC to consider lowering the speed limit, adding speed bumps or other deterrents to mitigate often misguided through-traffic on Mackin Avenue.

*Committee Recommendation:* The Committee will consider taking steps to mitigate the issue at the next meeting.

*Committee Follow Up August 27<sup>th</sup>:* PD monitored one year ago and determined speeding was not a problem. This item is closed.

10. Washington Avenue and Depuyster Avenue

*The Issue:* Resident complaints to County Legislator Nick Page give the impression that there may be some evening/night time racing on Washington Avenue and Depuyster Avenue.

*Committee Recommendation:* PD will monitor and TSC will evaluate next meeting.

#### 11. Resident Permits

*The Issue:* Main Street residents would feel relief if they could pay an annual fee for a sticker that would allow them to leave cars on side streets for longer than the marked periods.

*Committee Recommendation:* The Committee will consider during their next meeting.

*Committee Follow Up August 27<sup>th</sup>:* The Committee is not recommending parking permits. Residents can park on side streets up to 48 hours if the car is registered and parked legally. This item is closed.

#### 12. Herbert and Main Street

*The Issue:* Mayor Casale asked the TSC to review the traffic measures at the intersection of Herbert Street and Main Street on behalf of a resident.

*Committee Recommendation:* TSC decided to have the PD monitor the intersection. This item is open and will be discussed at the next meeting.

*Committee Follow Up:* PD monitored and determined to close this item.

#### Prospect Street and Alice Street

*The Issue:* There is a second sign saying “No Parking Between Signs” on Prospect Street. The arrow should not point towards East Main Street.

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### **New Business**

#### 1. Church Street at Walnut Street

*The Issue:* Several residents in the neighborhood reached out to CM regarding accidents at this intersection. Please see on the correspondence below:

“I am writing to the Traffic Safety Committee in regards to the intersection of Church St. and No. Walnut St. where there have been too many accidents throughout the years (one occurring only yesterday). Visibility is limited, especially when cars are parked right up to the corner. I think it would be helpful to

make it a 4-way stop so that drivers on all sides may at least proceed a little more cautiously. Thank you for your consideration.”

*Committee Recommendation:* PD will monitor. CM will tell Dave Buckley about overgrown plants.

## 2. Cross Street Parking

*The Issue:* TSC Chairperson Matt Dubetsky would like to discuss parking on Cross Street as it relates to sight distance and getting fire apparatuses down the street safely.

*Committee Recommendation:* Chief VanVooris will test what it’s like to get a fire apparatus through and will bring back to TSC next meeting. MD will get the measurements.

## 3. Tioronda Avenue Speeding

*The Issue:* A Public Hearing was held by the City Council on August 19, 2019 to receive community input on the proposed mixed-use development at 248 Tioronda Avenue. A few of the residents were complaining about speeding cars on Tioronda, saying they don’t feel safe.

*Committee Recommendation:* PD will monitor. CM will check exact location of concern along Tioronda Avenue.

## 4. Dummy Light

*The Issue:* Please see the letter below from a resident regarding traffic patterns at the Dummy Light.

"I have been having bad experiences at the dummy light. Yesterday was the most dangerous one though. People treat the railroad tracks like a crosswalk and it's not. There is also a downward hill there (so if someone walks in front of your car as you are rolling down it can be harder to stop) and drunk party people walking around, it's too dark as well.

Is there anything in the works to improve this area? There is a lot going on there and it's not well light at all or clear as to where to walk and people get confused (tourists) about where to turn etc. also, not well marked at all."

*Committee Recommendation:* A decision will be made based upon an interdisciplinary pedestrian and bicycle audit on Main Street.

## 5. Verplank Avenue and Willow Street

*The Issue:* Please see below a message from a resident to Council person Nelson.

"Terry, Last Sunday I was stopped on Willow street for the Stop sign/blinking lite. People were getting out of church and this particular couple were almost hit by a vehicle going thru the stop sign. This isn't the first time I've seen this. This has happened many times. The Stop signs do not work. Traffic (some) goes thru them every day especially in the morning. The police are parked on Willow street once in a while and they do a good job. But they can't be there every day. People in your/our neighborhood would like to see



the traffic light working again to be safe crossing the street. This problem has been noted for quite some time to previous council persons. I believe Verplanck is a County/State road but the Traffic lite is ours.

It's not a matter of petitions or council meetings. It's a matter of the Council keeping our people safe from getting run over along with no traffic accidents. So, I'm asking you if this can be resolved. No other Ward 1 council person has ever delivered. We have a good Mayor who knows the situation with a good back-up of council people. Maybe after all these years the neighborhood can a responsible answer.”

*Committee Recommendation:* PD will monitor on Sunday mornings. CM will reach out to Dillon Tuttle at the County for their recommendation.