

City of Beacon  
Traffic Safety Committee  
September 30, 2019  
Minutes

➤ Open Issues

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| 2. Cross Street at West Church Street     | Open |
| 3. Washington Avenue and Depuyster Avenue | Open |
| 4. Prospect Street and Alice Street       | Open |
| 5. Church Street and North Walnut Street  | Open |
| 6. Cross Street Speeding/Parking          | Open |
| 7. Tioronda Avenue Speeding               | Open |
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| 9. Verplanck Avenue and Willow Street     | Open |

➤ New Business

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4. Dewindt Street Width
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7. East Main Street Navigation and Parking
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10. Commerce Street Parking
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## Open Issues

### 1. 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.

*Committee follow up September 30:* This item is closed.

### 2. 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.

*Committee Follow Up September 30:* MM and SF will take measurements and email to CM and MD.

### 3. 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.

*Committee Follow Up from September 30:* This item is closed. PD will monitor. CM will send letter to Nick.

#### 4. 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.

*Committee Follow Up September 30:* MM took care of it. This item is closed.

#### 5. 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.

*Committee Follow Up September 30:* This item is closed. PD will continue to monitor this ongoing issue.

#### 6. 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.

*Committee Follow Up September 30:* See item number 2.

#### 7. 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.

*Committee Follow Up September 30:* PD will run radar there once in a while. This item is closed.

#### 8. 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.

*Committee Follow Up September 30:* Committee is waiting on the audit. Further, the street lights should be powered, along with the Dummy Light, by Sun Up Construction as part of the East End Project.

#### 9. 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.

Please see below a letter from the Dutchess County Department of Planning regarding the Verplanck and Willow intersection

Hi Collin,

I sent your query around for a few others to weigh in on it.

A blinking red warning beacon is an accepted addition to an all-way stop as an extra warning to drivers, particularly when there is a history of intersection crashes and/or where sign visibility may not be ideal. See [MUTCD section 4L.05](#). Redundancy in traffic control is not a bad thing if it calls drivers' attention to a particularly dangerous situation. In this case, I'm guessing it's primarily for drivers on Verplanck, since this is the only stop sign on that road and the approach from the east has a curve. It would be interesting to look into its history and try to find out more about why it was installed, but regardless, circumstances may have change, and it may be worthwhile for the City's engineer to evaluate the intersection and recommend appropriate traffic control changes.

The signal itself is very old, with a pretty dim light set in a green head. I doubt it's doing much in its current condition. It's also a full red/yellow/green signal, not the standard red-only signal generally used for this application. If the city wishes to keep it, we would definitely recommend updating it. We also noticed that the stop signs, especially the WB Verplanck sign, are quite old and have lost some of their retroreflectivity. They, or at least the one, should be updated (unless they already have been; this is based on street view from July 2018).

Just for your reference, I took a quick look at the last 5 years (2014-2018) of crash history. There were ten reported crashes at the intersection. While that's more than anybody wants, it's not a notably high number for an intersection with this volume of traffic. Digging in a little deeper, six were right angle crashes where someone either ran the stop sign or started from stop without seeing that another car was already in the intersection, and three were rear ends (the tenth was just someone nicking a parked car).

If you have any more questions, please feel free to reach out. Best,

Dylan

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*Committee Follow Up September 30: MM will replace the sign at WB Verplanck. PD will monitor.*

### **New Business**

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1. Roundtree Court Parking

Two residents will come to discuss

Reschedule their visit for the next meeting.

2. Liberty Street and Wilson Street

*The Issue:* Please see the letter below from a resident on Liberty Street.

Good morning,

First of all, I want to acknowledge the work that has been done so far addressing our concern over traffic safety in Liberty/Wilson neighborhood. Myself and members of the community would like to attend Sept 24 Public Safety Committee meeting to hear the updates and plans to move forward. With days getting shorter there is increased danger for our kids on the streets in the evenings. Speeding and reckless driving is still an issue.

Some flashpoint over the last couple months:

- A landscaping truck with a trailer was speeding against traffic in one-way section of Liberty Street by the water plant, when the truck was turning the sharp corner there the trailer skidded and came within inches of hitting my parents who were strolling.

- A white SUV was doing 50-60 mph on Liberty St as I stood with several kids on bicycles near my driveway. I stepped onto the street waving the SUV to slow down. Instead, the SUV played "chicken" with me - started barreling toward me and I had to jump off the road.

- Consistent aggressive driving by a Wilson St resident driving silver Mercedes SUV despite constant pleas to slow down

- Two intersections are still blocked by trees (Liberty St and Bridge St) and fence (Liberty St and Wilcox St).

- Lack of Detour signs directing drivers going north on Liberty towards Washington Ave to go Stone St instead during water main work on Wilson results in people who come to Liberty St / Bridge St intersection to find that Bridge St and/or Wilson are closed for traffic, turn around and speed aggressively south on Liberty St. back to Stone St.

Thank you,

Sergei Krasikov

*Committee Recommendation:* CM will tell Dave Buckely about the complaint about the fence at Liberty and Wilcox for a code violation and the trees at Liberty St and Bridge St.

Construction will be completed in the next couple of days.

PD says they haven't written tickets in the area although they are monitoring and will continue to do so.

### 3. "Please Honk"

*The Issue:* Bill Irwin spoke at a Council meeting on August 19<sup>th</sup> and said that the "Please Honk" sign near Madame Brett Park is a disturbance for people who live in the area because people lay on their horn and don't slow down. He also said that a traffic study on Tioronda Avenue was done a few years ago near Madame Brett Park but the study only included the north side of the road.

*Committee Recommendation:* the honk sign is necessary.

### 4 . Dewindt Street Width

*The Issue:* A woman who lives in the area of Dewindt Street called and commented that the road is not wide enough to park cars on both sides and have cars driving simultaneously in opposite directions.

*Committee Recommendation:* Lieutenant Frost suggesting making Dewindt Street one way east bound from Cliff Street to South Chestnut Street and Church Street one way west bound from North Chestnut Street to Willow Street.

### 5 . Willow Street and Main Street

*The Issue:* A resident raised a concern at the September 16, 2019 City Council Meeting regarding the lack of a Stop Sign on Willow Street where Willow meets Main. Also, "the yellow signs by the state should have signs on both sides."

*Committee Recommendation:* Main Street audit should make recommendations.

### 6 . Grove Street

*The Issue:* Council Person McCredo brought up Grove Street at the Council meeting on September 16, 2019. She said that something needs to be done about the hill on Grove Street between Highland Place and Overlook Ave. It can be very dangerous for people walking when there are no sidewalks. We should look into extending the one-way from Leonard Street up through that hill on Grove Street.

*Committee Recommendation:* The Committee does not see a need to extend the one way based on the data available. CM will look at the accident data from the audit.

#### 7 . East Main Street

*The Issue:* At the September 16, 2019 Council Meeting, Council Person McCredo said that navigating the east end of Main Street is a problem and parking is also an issue.

*Committee Recommendation:* The City Code does not match with the reality for parking regulations. MM and SF will go together and make recommendations at the next meeting. The goal is to make it clearer and easier to enforce parking in the area.

#### 8. Leonard Street

*The Issue:* At the September 16, 2019 Council Meeting, Council Person McCredo said that on Leonard Street many vehicles drive the wrong way, particularly coming out of the new apartments. Signage may be an issue.

*Committee Recommendation:* SF will look at the signage and make a recommendation at the next meeting.

#### 9. Grove and Leonard

Please see the letter below:

I want to bring to your attention the intersection of Liberty and Grove Street because it has become a safety hazard and needs to be remedied.

The traffic at this intersection has increased tenfold as it is the only way for all of the residents at the new apartment complex on Leonard Street to reach their home. It is confusing because Liberty Street becomes a one way street here. At this point, many people seem to understand that it is a dangerous intersection and stop even though there is not a stop sign in the Liberty Street direction. This causes its own confusion and danger because drivers and pedestrians (many of them children) are never sure if a driver is stopping or just slowing down and I have witnessed many close calls as residents try to navigate it without clear guidance from traffic signs. Please consider making this a 4 way stop. It is an inexpensive way to prevent an injury or worse.

Thank you for your service and consideration.



*Committee Recommendation:* SF will visit the area and make a recommendation at the next meeting.

#### 10. Commerce Street Parking

The Issue: Please see the letter below from a resident on Commerce Street.

I'd like to request the addition of some No Parking signs around my driveway, which is on Commerce Street.

Because Commerce is a narrow, one-way street with parking on both sides of the street, I often have trouble getting in and out of my driveway. Cars are parked both too close to the driveway on my side of the street as well as on the opposite side, forcing me either to do a three or five point turn to get in or out, or simply preventing me from using my driveway at all. I share my driveway with my neighbors at 20 South Avenue, so this problem affects them as well.

A buffer zone of approximately five feet on each side of the driveway would resolve this issue and still leave plenty of parking spaces for neighborhood residents and visitors.

I'm happy to meet to discuss this request, if that would be helpful.

Thanks!

*Committee Recommendation:* SF and Fire Chief will visit the location of the complaint and determine if no parking signs are appropriate.

#### 11. Matteawan Rd Crossing

*The Issue:* Please see the letter below:

We have a safety issue here on Matteawan Road at Meadow Ridge Circle. There are sidewalks on each side but no markings or signage for crosswalk. People, notably students at the high school, do cross here. I hope you can address this.

Thanks for your attention.

*Committee Recommendation:* The Committee does not recommend painting a crosswalk from one sidewalk to a side of the street that does not have a sidewalk.



Leonard Street one way signs SF will examine and make recommendations at the next meeting.

12. Police Chief asked that the Committee look at Anderson Street to put up a School Sign.

*Committee Recommendation:* The Committee does not see the need to add any signs at this location.