

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Traffic Safety Committee**  
**June 25, 2019**  
**8:30 AM**

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**Call to order:** A regular meeting of the Traffic Safety Committee was held on June 25, 2019. The meeting convened at 8:30 AM.

**Members in attendance:** Mike Manzi (MM), Lt. Sands Frost (SF), Matt Dubetski (MD), Chief Gary VanVoorhis (GV), Gary Barrack (GB), and Collin Milone (CM).

**Members not in attendance:**

**Old 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

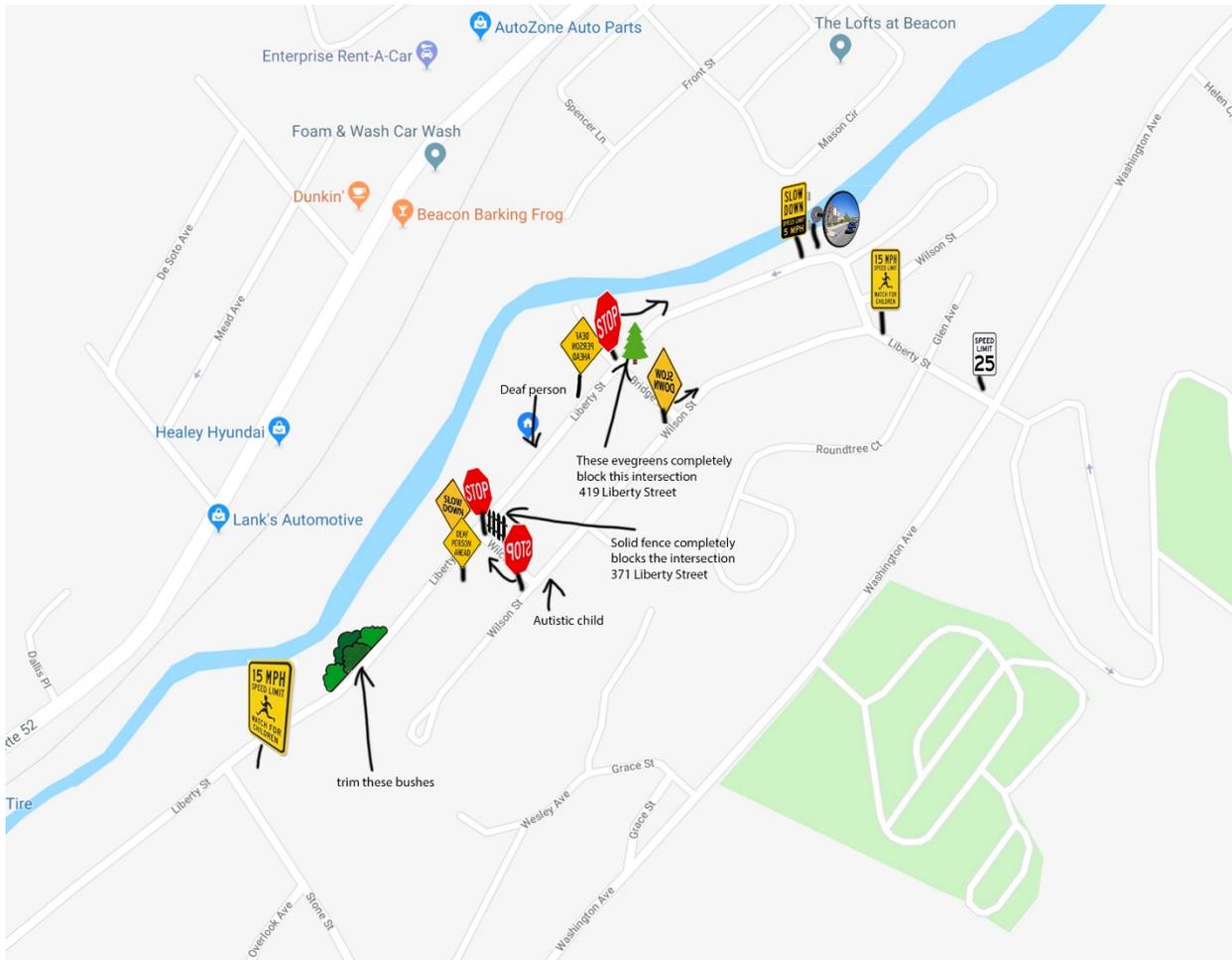
Ave to 25 mph. Alternative proposal - to reduce the area traffic to 25 mph on all roads north of East Main and west of Washington Ave.

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 comer 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 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 kids 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 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 collected.

*Committee Follow Up:* SF reported that the Police Department has been visiting the area frequently however, they have not written any moving violations. The data collector has been placed on site and the data will be reviewed at the next meeting. This item is open.

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### 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.

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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.

*Committee Follow Up:* The city code states that there shall be no parking on Sargent Avenue on both sides of the street between Education Drive and Wolcott Avenue. The TSC decided to place signs on the west side of the

street approximately 110 feet north of Sycamore Drive and 50 south of Sycamore Drive stating “No Parking Here to Corner” CM will write letter on behalf of the TSC (MD will sign) addressed to the Beacon Soccer Club organizer to give the soccer club ample warning of the no parking signs going 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

*Committee Follow Up:* The Police Department will continue to monitor. This item is open.

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#### New Business

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#### Leonard and East Main Street

A resident made it known that they think a mirror should be placed on East Main Street at the intersection of Leonard Street and East Main Street due to poor sight distance.

*Committee Recommendation:* The Committee decided not to put a mirror in this location. This item is closed.

#### Oak and Willow

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 will continue to discuss this item at the next meeting. This item is open.

#### Main Street Handicap Parking

Below is a letter from Stosh Yankowski regarding handicap parking on Main Street.

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

# HANDICAP PARKING

Josh Yankowski  
~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

## EXISTING

- 1- CLIFF ST PARKING LOT
- 4 - BMV
- 2 - KEY FOOD
- 1- CORNER MAIN & N. BRETT - NEEDS SIGN & REPAINT
- 1- SIDE LIBRARY
- 1- SIDE RITE AID
- 2 - BACK HUDSON VALLEY CREDIT U
- 4 - BEHIND DOCS S. CHESTNUT (SIDE OF FLEA MKT)
- 1- FRONT P.O.
- 2- SIDE MOSQUE
- 3- BEHIND YANKEE CLIPPER
- 1- SIDE CHASE (PARKING LOT)
- 3- STREET ON SIDE OF BROTHERS
- 2- PARKING LOT CORNER MAIN & VERPLANK
- 1- MELZING PARKING LOT
- 1- EAST MAIN FRONT OF McMILLAN BROS

## NEED

BANK SQUARE COFFEE

M + T BANK

CITIZEN'S BANK

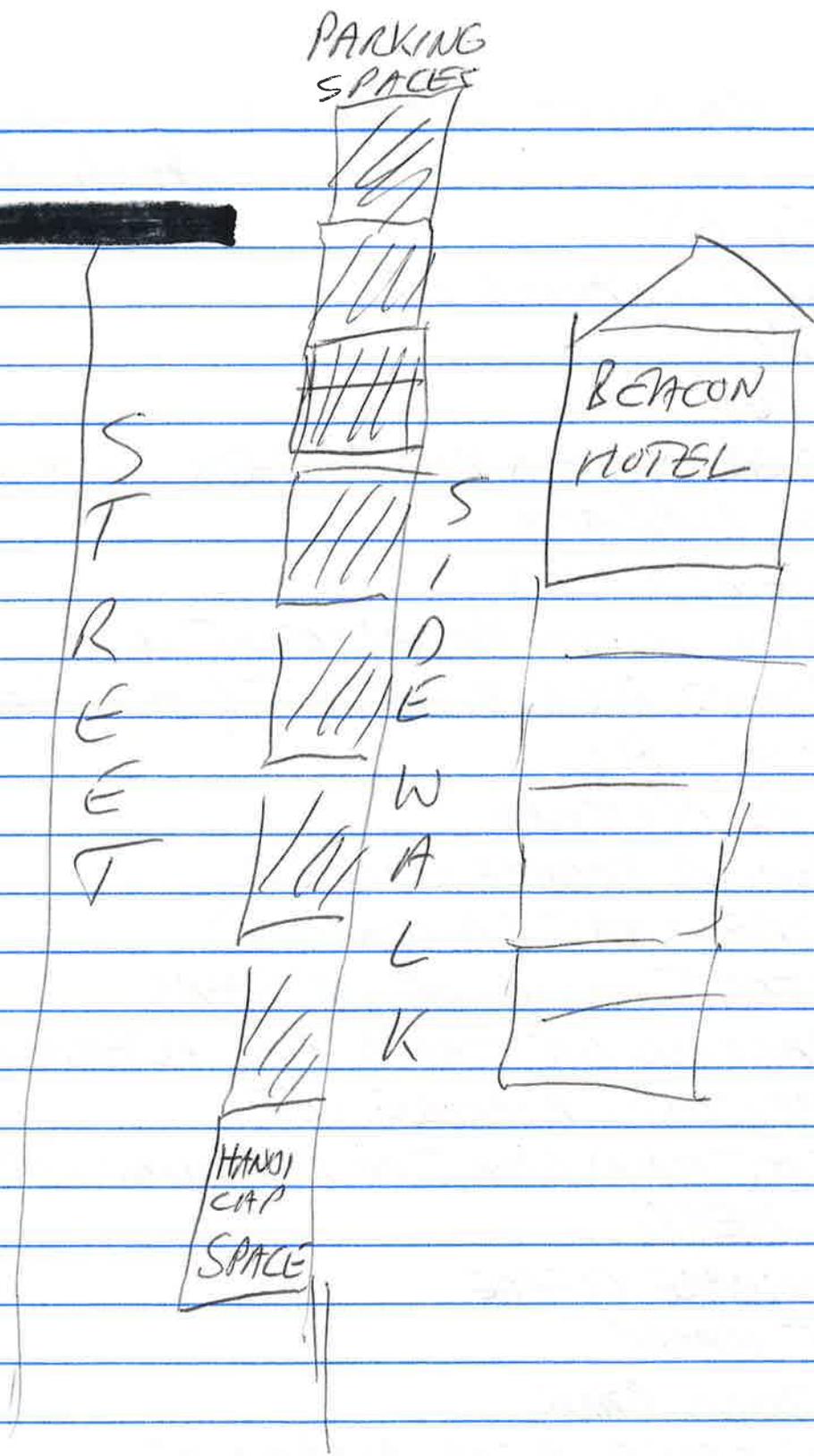
TOWN CRIER REAR AND/OR SIDE

BEACON HOTEL

HOWLAND CULTURAL CENTER

SUKHAT

BEST TO CREATE HANDICAP AT END OF ROW OF SPACES  
(SEE OVER)



EASIER TO PULL INTO  
SPACE RATHER THAN BACK IN

Cross Street Speed

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. 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.

Lewis Tompkins Hose Fire Zone Parking

GV asked the TSC to consider moving the “No Parking Fire Zone” sign on South Avenue further south from the entrance to the fire station. Fire trucks are having a hard time pulling out of the station when a car is parked adjacent to their driveway. The TSC decided to place a sign stating “No Parking Here to Corner” further south from the entrance to the fire station. Doing so will provide ample space for fire trucks to operate.

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**Next meeting: July 23, 2019 at 8:30 AM**

Respectfully Submitted by

*Collin Milone*

6/25/2019

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Collin Milone, Assistant to Mayor

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Date