

City of Beacon
Parking and Traffic Safety Committee
January 23, 2020
Minutes

The Parking and Traffic Safety Committee met in the Classroom in City Hall at 1 Municipal Plaza, Beacon, NY 12508 at 9 am. Attendees included: Matt Dubetsky (MD), Committee Chair; Michael Manzi (MM), Highway Superintendent; Police Lieutenant Sands Frost (SF); Fire Chief Gary VanVooris (GV); and Collin Milone (CM), Secretary.

➤ Old Business

1. Cross Street at West Church
2. Dummy Light
3. Commerce Street
4. Roundtree Court
5. Schofield and Phillips

➤ New Business

1. South Avenue School
2. East Main Street and Spring Street
3. Leonard Street and Amity Street
4. Willow Street and Main Street
5. Prospect Street
6. Main Street Speed

Open Issues

1. Cross Street

MM would like to discuss no parking signs near the Cross St and West Church St intersection.

January Update: “No Parking” signs have been codified and installed at the following locations:

On the east side of Cross Street from Main Street to West Church Street

On the east side of Cross Street from West Church Street to a point 65 feet north

2. 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 of Main Street.

October Update: The Dummy Light is now flashing. PD will monitor. This item is open and is awaiting the Main Street Audit.

November Update: A resident stopped by City Hall asking when the crosswalk will be painted.

January Update: The Committee reviewed the Road Safety Audit's recommendations for this location and decided to leave this agenda item open for further consideration at their February meeting.

3. 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.

October Follow Up: This item is open and will be discussed at the next meeting.

November Follow Up: The Committee decided to recommend codifying No Parking on the south side of Commerce Street from 75 feet east of fire hydrant No. 11 to a point 110 feet west.

January Follow Up: The City Council did not vote to approve the No Parking zone. CM wrote an email to the resident informing him of this decision.

4. Roundtree Court Parking

Three residents from Roundtree Court came and made the comments below:

- The street light between 61 and 63 is out
- Several stop signs need to be replaced
- All stop signs need to be codified
- Parking in the intersections is a problem
- The residents are requesting no parking signs in several locations, please see the map below. (The map is a little unclear, the residents are requesting no parking near the pool, and on the inside of the bends presented in yellow on the map.)

Committee Recommendation: MM will work with Central Hudson to turn the light back on. MM will replace the stop signs. CM will work with city attorneys to codify the stop signs. PD asked that the residents call whenever someone is illegally parked in the intersection. The committee will take the “no parking” requests under consideration at their next meeting.

January Update: The street light has been fixed and the stop signs have been replaced. CM will work with attorneys to codify the stop signs. PD has told the residents to call them if a car is parked in the intersection so PD can ticket the owner. The Committee recommended that the residents put traffic cones in the road where they want to create a no parking zone near the pool during pool hours only. Chief VanVoorhis has recommended No Parking on one section of the road; MM will measure and provide the footage to C.M for codification. CM updated the resident.

Scofield and Philips Street

The engineer on the Philips Street Project included a 3 way stop in the plans. It will need to be codified.

January Update: C.M will work with the city attorneys to codify.

New Business

South Avenue School

The Issue: See the letter below from a resident:

“I would like to request that the Traffic Committee consider a stop signs on the corners of South Avenue and Davies Avenue and at West Center Street (in front of South Avenue School. South Avenue is a busy street, especially at open and dismissal times of school. It is on a curve, limiting visibility traveling in either direction on South, and turning off Davies Avenue. My observation is that speeding is a regular occurrence at all times. There is a stop sign at the corner of Beacon Street, but that seems to have little effect on southbound traffic and no effect on northbound traffic. South Avenue should be considered a local street not a major thoroughfare, as I assume that is why Walcott was extended.

Stop signs on both corners would increase neighborhood safety for residents and school children.

I do not see a contact for the Chair of the Traffic Committee. Please forward this request for consideration.”

Committee Recommendation: The committee did not recommend adding new stop signs for the following reasons. The area has new sidewalks, a crosswalk, a crossing guard, and the speed limit is 15 miles per hour. The Police Department will monitor the area. C.M informed the resident who made the request.

East Main Street and Spring Street

The Issue: Please see the letter below:

The JV Forrestal Lego League has a proposal for a four way stop sign at the intersection of East Main Street, Spring Street, and Washington Avenue, near BarB’s Butchery. Some cars speed on Washington Avenue. It has no current stop sign and it is quite difficult to see around.

Thank you very much for looking into this matter. Here is a picture of this intersection.

Committee Recommendation: The committee recommended that the Police Department monitor the area over the course of the next month. This item will be revisited at the February 27th meeting of the Parking and Traffic Safety Committee. CM informed Councilmember McCredo.

Leonard Street and Amity Street

The Issue: A resident, speaking at a City Council Meeting, said that motorists at an intersection on Leonard Street are unsafe because there are not enough signs alerting them of the one-way traffic direction and does not have a four-way stop. (The resident was most-likely speaking of the Leonard Street and Amity Street intersection).

Committee Recommendation: The committee recommended not to add signage at this location due to the fact that it is already properly signed. CM informed the resident.

Willow Street and Main Street

The Issue: A resident, speaking at a City Council Meeting, requested a stop sign at the intersection of Willow Street and Main Street.

Committee Recommendation: The committee recommended not to add a stop sign at this intersection for the following reasons. There are several safety features in place at the intersection, including a crosswalk on Willow Street, a crosswalk on Main Street on the south side of the intersection, a no parking zone on Main Street on the north side of the intersection which prevents one vehicle from parking near the intersection, a no parking zone on the south side of the intersection which prevents a one vehicle from parking near the intersection, a signed parking space allowing only compact cars in the parking space nearest the intersection on the north side of the intersection and a signed parking space allowing only compact cars in the parking space nearest the intersection on the south side of the intersection. In the case of this three-way intersection, motorists are required by law to stop on Willow Street before turning onto Main Street. CM informed the resident who made the request.

Prospect Street

The Issue: See the letter below from a resident:

I'm not sure if this has been brought up before as everyone feels the same way about this, but I have a recommendation about a traffic light, or lack of one I should say. Many cars and buses leave Beacon High School going up Matteawan Road toward the prison, which leads into Prospect Street and then goes into Route 52. Cars and especially school buses have a very difficult time pulling out into traffic onto 52 as cars driving in opposite directions combined with the steep angle of Prospect Street makes it a very challenging task. Not only will a light make it easier for cars and buses to pull out from Prospect Street, but it will also create a safer environment for both drivers on Prospect and Route 52.

I understand that Prospect Street is the border between Beacon and Fishkill so I'm not quite sure who to bring this recommendation up to.

Committee Recommendation: This intersection is in the Town of Fishkill. C.M informed the resident.

Main Street Speed Limits

The Issue: Councilmember Nelson, at the January 21st Council Meeting, requested that the PTSC look at lowering the speed limit on Main Street by five miles per hour. He also asked why Main Street does not have speed limit signs posted.

Committee Recommendation: The committee recommended not to add signage or to lower the speed limit on Main Street. The speed limit is posted at the entrances to the city. Curb extensions will be added at key intersections along Main Street in order to create safer spaces for pedestrians to cross the street while also strategically narrowing the road to slow traffic. Construction is set to begin in mid-2020.