



City of Beacon

Parking and Traffic Safety Committee

Classroom, City Hall
1 Municipal Plaza, Beacon, NY 12508

Minutes

February 27, 2020 at 9 am

In attendance: Michael Manzi, Superintendent of Streets; Lieutenant Sands Frost, Beacon Police Department; Chief Gary VanVoorhis, Beacon Fire Department; Matthew Dubetksy, PTSC Chair; Jill Reynolds, Beacon Planning Board Representative, Collin Milone, PTSC Secretary

➤ Old Business

1. Dummy Light
2. Roundtree Court Update
3. Schofield and Phillips
4. South Ave. School
5. East Main St. and Spring St.

➤ New Business

1. Crescent Dr. and Rende Dr.
2. Henry St. and Tioronda Ave.
3. Cliff St. and Beacon St.
4. E. Main St. / Spring St. / Washington Ave.
5. East Main St. and Spring St.
6. Blackburn Ave. and Fishkill Ave.
7. Matteawan Rd. Crosswalk
8. Sargent Ave. Sidewalk
9. Churchill St. Parking Lot to Main St.
10. Depuyster Ave.
11. Howland Avenue Truck Traffic
12. Road Safety Audit Review

➤ **Old Business**

1. 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 St.

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

February Update: PTSC decided to allow the newly formed Main Street Access Committee to make a decision regarding the dummy light.

2. Roundtree Court Parking Update

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

- The St. 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.

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. Will be discussed by Council at upcoming Workshop.

February Update: CM will work with attorneys and Council to codify the existing three stop signs and no parking zone.

3. Scofield and Philips St. Update

The engineer on the Philips St. 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. Will be discussed by Council at upcoming Workshop.

February Update: At their March 16th meeting, City Council will set a Public Hearing to codify these stop signs.

4. South Ave. 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 Ave. and Davies Ave. and at West Center St. (in front of South Ave. School. South Ave. is a busy St., 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 Ave. My observation is that speeding is a regular occurrence at all times. There is a stop sign at the corner of Beacon St., but that seems to have little effect on southbound traffic and no effect on northbound traffic. South Ave. 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."

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.

February Update: This item is closed.

5. East Main St. and Spring St.

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 St., Spring St., and Washington Ave., near BarB's Butchery. Some cars speed on Washington Ave. It has no current stop sign and it is quite difficult to see around. Thank you very much for looking into this matter.

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.

February Update: See New Business.

➤ **New Business**

1. Crescent Dr. and Rende Dr.

A resident requested the PTSC consider recommending the installation of a stop sign at this location.

Further, Councilmember Dan Aymar-Blair provided the following suggestion:

I was planning on asking for a review of this corner in a slightly different way. Instead of "stop sign or no stop sign", I wanted to pose a question about traffic slowing measures other than stop signs. For example, perhaps we could install a pedestrian island at the end of Crescent that has a tree and some plants in it. It would contribute to the appearance of the neighborhood and would slow traffic taking that left turn - if determined necessary by the traffic and safety commission.

Committee Recommendation: The PTSC recommended not adding stop signs or a pedestrian island. When motorists approach a T-intersection, and cannot go straight, they are required to yield according to New York State Law. There is minimal through traffic at this location. The Police Department will monitor. This item is closed.

2. Van Nydeck Avenue and Tioronda Ave.

A resident requested the PTSC consider recommending the installation of a stop sign at this location.

Committee Recommendation: The PTSC recommended not adding stop signs. When motorists approach a T-intersection, and cannot go straight, they are required to yield according to New York State Law. There is minimal through traffic at this location. The Police Department will monitor. This item is closed.

3. Cliff St. and Beacon St.

Please see this note from a resident:

Today was the second morning in a row (and the umpteenth time over the past few years, with ever increasing frequency) that I have had to lay on my horn as a car sailed through the intersection at Cliff St. and Beacon St. We have many kids walking to South Ave. school along Cliff St., and this intersection is becoming increasingly dangerous the more and more people move to this neighborhood.

*The intersection is askew, and I realize it's sometimes hard to gauge whether a car opposite you has actually stopped, and it's hard to see around the corner, but people **MUST** slow down there.*

I recommend larger, brighter signage reminding drivers that is in fact a four-way stop. Currently, people just seem to have no idea, and they just zip on through.

Can you please turn your attention to this dangerous situation? I'm concerned that it will only be getting worse, as density increases in the area.

Thank you so much, and please let me know what else I can do!

Committee Recommendation: The PD will monitor, CM will update the resident, and this item will be placed on the March 26 agenda.

4. E. Main St. / Spring St. / Washington Ave.

Please see the note below from Councilmember Dan Aymar-Blair

Two constituents asked me to look into the intersection of East Main and Spring and Washington, the corner with Barb's Butchery. Pulling out of Spring St in a car, you have no view of traffic coming from around the bend. (I have experienced this myself.) They also said its' very dangerous crossing for the same reason that cars come whipping around that bend.

Now Amber and Jodi said this topic was brought up already and may have already gone to the traffic and safety committee. So hopefully something's in the works for this intersection. I just wanted to add my two cents because I think this is an important one for the city to deal with.

Councilmember McCredo referred this to the Parking and Traffic Safety Committee on behalf of the JV Forrestal Lego League on December 9, 2019. The Committee reviewed the comments at the next meeting on January 23rd. Please see an excerpt from that meeting below.

East Main St. and Spring St.

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 St., Spring St., and Washington Ave., near Barb's Butchery. Some cars speed on Washington Ave.. It has no current stop sign and it is quite difficult to see around.

Thank you very much for looking into this matter.

Committee Recommendation: The committee recommended that the PD monitor the area over the course of the next month. This item will be revisited at the February 27th meeting of the PTSC. CM informed Councilmember McCredo.

February Update: The PTSC has referred this to Dutchess County Department of Planning and Development for review and comment. It will be placed on the March 26th agenda.

5. Blackburn Ave. and Fishkill Ave.

The City Administrator requested the PTSC review the possible addition of a stop sign at this intersection.

Committee Recommendation: The PTSC recommended not adding a stop sign due to the potential for increased congestion. They will consider a crosswalk sign westbound at their March 26 meeting.

6. Howland Avenue Truck Traffic

Councilmember Dan Aymar-Blair has inquired about potential solutions to truck traffic on Howland Avenue. Please see his message below along with comments from Police Chief Kevin Junjulas.

Last year, I heard from several families on Howland Ave about several problems with their street, most of which we'll have to get to later. A common complaint however was the amount of truck traffic on Howland. It seems truck drivers have discovered this secret passageway to 52 and 84 by way of Howland and Depuyster. I have observed this myself waiting at my kids' bus stop. The trucks are loud when they hit those sunken drainage pits and they go around that turn by the JW center awfully fast.

So, I assume my questions would need to go the traffic and safety committee? They are:

- If truck traffic is permitted, can we ban trucks from what should be a neighborhood street?*
- If truck traffic is not permitted, can we get some signs that say no trucks, probably by the mountain parking lot and then another spot at the other end near Glenham perhaps?*

Comments on Howland Ave. Truck Traffic by Police Chief Kevin Junjulas:

Trucks with a total gross weight of over 10,000 lbs. are not permitted on Howland Ave. unless making a local delivery or pick up. I have advised patrols to monitor the area in question as staffing and workload allow. I agree that better signage in the area will help alleviate the problem as it has been our experience that most drivers just follow GPS and are not aware of the designated truck routes. I will forward a request to the traffic safety committee to look into placing signage along this corridor.

On a side note, some of the code is contradictory, specifically where it says that truck traffic is prohibited on Wolcott Ave. but allowed on Rt. 9D, these roads are obviously one in the same.

This needs to be corrected and I will also bring this to the attention of the traffic safety committee.

Committee Recommendation: CM will work with attorneys and Council to prepare a proposed local law clarifying the language and allowing Wolcott Avenue to serve as a truck route. MM and SF will determine sign placement locations.

7. Matteawan Rd. Crosswalk

A resident request the PTSC review the possible addition of a crosswalk on Matteawan Rd. in front of Meadow Ridge because of the pedestrian traffic generated by school children.

The PTSC did not have time to review this item; it will be placed on the March 26th agenda.

8. Sargent Ave. Sidewalk

A resident requested the addition of a crosswalk on the southeast side of Sargent Ave. from Wolcott Ave. to Education Dr. to accommodate the pedestrian traffic generated from children, particularly during soccer matches.

The PTSC did not have time to review this item; it will be placed on the March 26th agenda.

9. Churchill St. Parking Lot to Main St.

A resident requested the PTSC review this area for potential pedestrian improvements. The RSA contains several recommendations for this area.

The PTSC did not have time to review this item; it will be placed on the March 26th agenda.

10. Depuyster Ave.

A resident requested the PTSC review a potential sidewalk on Depuyster Ave.

The PTSC did not have time to review this item; it will be placed on the March 26th agenda.