



City of Beacon

Parking and Traffic Safety Committee

City Hall
1 Municipal Plaza, Beacon, NY 12508

Minutes

May 28, 2020 at 9 am

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

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Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Parking and Traffic Safety Committee (PTSC) will be meeting via conference call.

Attendees: Matthew Dubetsky (Chair), Fire Chief Gary VanVoorhis, Lieutenant Sands Frost, Jill Reynolds (Planning Board Representative), Michael Manzi (Highway Superintendent), Collin Milone (Secretary)

➤ Old Business

1. E. Main St. / Spring St. / Washington Ave.
2. Matteawan Rd. Crosswalk
3. Sargent Ave. Sidewalk
4. Proposed Zoning Changes
5. Exeter Circle
6. Roundtree Court amended parking proposal

➤ New Business

1. Traffic Safety Committee Procedures
2. Veteran's Place Loading Zone

➤ Old Business

1. 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.

Please see the comments below from Dutchess County Planning and Development Junior Planner, Dylan Tuttle.

We reviewed the sight lines, available traffic volumes, and crash history for this site. Sight lines from Spring St are clearly an issue, and we agree that a four-way stop is likely the best solution. A few notes:

- While the intersection's crash history, volumes, and speeds do not meet the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices' (MUTCD) guidance for a 4-way stop, one of the considerations under "other criteria that may be considered" is "locations where a road user, after stopping, cannot see conflicting traffic and is not able to negotiate the intersection unless conflicting traffic is also required to stop." See [section 2B.07](#). The MUTCD requires an engineering study before making such a change.
- There were 12 reported crashes at this location over the last 5 years (2015-2019). One was directly related to sight lines. Two involved pedestrians. While speeding was not specifically identified as the cause of any crashes, it was likely a factor in a few. These are just reported crashes, and do not take into account close calls or unreported incidents.

- Stop signs on E Main St/Washington Ave would make it easier and safer for vehicles on Spring St to enter the intersection, and would slow traffic in general around the curve. Stop signs could also, however, lead to an increase in rear-end crashes. Compliance with the new signs would be essential to avoiding the bad crashes that can occur when road users (including pedestrians and bicyclists) expect a driver to stop and they do not. Sight distance approaching the signs is one key to this. The sight distance approaching the potential stop sign around the curve on E Main St appears adequate, but that should be verified in an engineering study.
- When new stop signs are installed, all stop signs should be given the "All Way" plaque (MUTCD plaque R1-3P), and the new signs should be given "New" plaques (W16-15P) for the first several months. The City may also want to temporarily install advance warning signs (W3-1) for the new stop signs.
- We currently only have traffic volumes for Washington Ave (about [2,000 cars per day](#)). I have added E Main St and Spring St to our count schedule for this summer.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Best,

Dylan

March Update: SF will try to find the accident reports at the intersection over the last five years. CM will reach out to Dutchess County for the actual dates of the accidents. Jill said there is increased pedestrian traffic from hikers crossing East Main from Spring Street up to the mountain.

April Update: CM will ask attorneys if engineering study is legally required. JR is in favor of a four-way stop. PTSC will review at May meeting.

May Update: City attorneys confirmed that a study is required.

June Update: Several of the reported accidents that Dutchess County was referring to did not actually occur in the intersection. Lieutenant

will update PTSC at next meeting.

2. Matteawan Rd. Crosswalk

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

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

March Update: SF said PD will monitor around 7 am to count the number of students who live in Meadow Ridge One when school reopens.

April Update: SF will work with PD and School District to learn how many students live in Meadow Ridge One.

3. 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.

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

March Update: The road is not wide enough for two-way traffic and a sidewalk. There is a grassy area along the stone wall for pedestrians to walk on which is off of the roadway. Sargent Avenue is 15 miles per hour. There are a lot of telephone poles on the east side that would hinder the ability to put a sidewalk there. MM will measure for the price of a sidewalk on the east side of Sargent Avenue. GV suggested writing a letter to the school board to put a parking lot on the entrance roadway to Sargent Avenue School off of Wolcott Avenue.

April Update: PTSC will leave this item on agenda until full committee can comment. SF will ask the crossing guard at Wolcott Avenue and Sargeant Avenue how many students cross each day. GV suggested making a recommendation to the soccer club to park on one side of the access road off of Wolcott and making a trail to the soccer fields. CM will draft a letter for PTSC to review at next meeting with PTSC recommendations to the School District.

May: CM will send letter.

4. Proposed Zoning Changes

See attached Memorandum from City Planner, John Clarke.

April: CM will draft letter to Mayor and Council recommending the proposed changes.

May Update: CM will send letter.

5. Exeter Circle

Please see the note below from a resident.

Yesterday upon returning home as I entered Exeter Circle there were cars parked belonging to hikers leaving exactly 8'4" space between them. None of the residents of Exeter Circle needed an ambulance or fire truck. If we had, I think they would have needed 11' There is no good reason for allowing hikers to park on our street. Most of us have children and built or bought these homes on Exeter Circle for the advantages of living on a cul de sac. Our kids can no longer ride their bikes, scooters etc. around the circle. We cannot go out and play catch with our kids. There is a constant parade of cars turning around the circle. This all seems very unfair for us. The solution appears simple. Parking for residents only. Move the **"no parking from here to corner"** south 50 meters and allow only resident parking from that point

on. I hope you will give this serious consideration and take appropriate action before one of our kids gets run over or we need an emergency vehicle that cannot get through.

April: PD has been sending a car to Exeter Circle 4 times daily and ticketing illegally parked vehicles. C.M will update complainant. PTSC will revisit after Scenic Hudson parking lot reopens at Mount Beacon trailhead.

6. Roundtree Court Amended Parking Proposal

From Michael Manzi, Superintendent of Streets:

I do not see a problem with making area across the street from originally proposed **no parking** as long as the committee is ok as well. It would be an area 80 feet between units 15 and 17 and it would be NO PARKING BETWEEN SIGNS.

April: PTSC recommend making the amendment CM will write letter to Mayor and Council.

➤ **New Business**

1. PTSC policies regarding review process; length of reviews, re-reviewing items, scope of review. See the attached City Code regarding the PTSC.

May: PTSC tabled this until the June meeting.

2. Loading Zone on Veteran's Place