



City of Beacon

Parking and Traffic Safety Committee

City Hall

1 Municipal Plaza, Beacon, NY 12508

Minutes

September 24, 2020 at 9 am

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

Attendees: Detective Sargent Jason Johnson, Fire Chief Gary VanVoorhis, Planning Board Representative Jill Reynolds, Highway Superintendent Michael Manzi, Committee Secretary Collin Milone

➤ **Old Business**

1. Exeter Circle
2. Mountain Lane
3. Verplanck Ave Speeding
4. North and South Parking

➤ **New Business**

1. Teller Avenue Speeding
2. Liberty Street Speeding
3. Mountain Lane
4. Traffic Studies Update

➤ **Old Business**

1. 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.

May: Lt. Frost told the Committee that there are constant patrols in the area. One car was illegally parked on Exeter Circle and it was ticketed. This item will remain open.

June: PD will continue to monitor now that traffic is slowly returning to the pre-COVID-19 status quo.

July: This item will be removed from the agenda. PD will continue to monitor.

August: The Committee recommended no parking on one side of Exeter Circle. MM and SF will measure for the proposed local law.

September: City Council has voted to schedule a public hearing on the matter for October 19, 2020. This item will be removed from the agenda.

2. Mountain Lane

Resident request for No Parking signs on Mountain Lane.

June: MM and GV will measure the area from the Mountain Lane Bridge (above Dry Brook Stream) to about 20 feet beyond Monument Rd. (the dirt road), taking into consideration the degree of maneuverability of a ladder truck in the area.

July: MD and SF will review the area and report back to the committee. Pocket road stop signs may need to be codified.

August: The Committee recommended no parking signs on Pocket Road and Mountain Lane. MM and SF will measure for the proposed local law.

September: Council will vote to schedule a public hearing.

See below a letter from Councilmember Aymar-Blair
Good morning Chief Frost,

“Hope you're doing well. I just wanted to follow up on my feedback regarding the limiting of parking on Mountain Lane.

I proposed extending the parking limitation further up on the mountain side of Mountain lane (the south side?). The resident whose property includes the mountain access road has been troubled by all the (unauthorized) mountain traffic but also the parking on her property.

As the Mayor stated, the parking on the lawn is in itself forbidden. But that doesn't resolve the issue that the resident is constantly having to fill in skid marks and repair their lawn. I don't think it's a stretch that the fire department would need some more room coming through the narrowing of the road here. Further, this would be a really nice gesture to the resident who has been upset about this situation for some time.

If you have any questions or need further information, you can reach me at the number below.

Thanks,
Dan”

September: The Committee decided to amend the proposed no parking regulation from Monument Road on the mountain side of the Mountain Lane to the start of the driveway at 31 mountain lane. CM will update the Council.

3. Verplanck Ave Speeding

See the message below from a resident.

“I would like to address the considerable amount of speeding on Verplank.

My daughter and her husband live at the corner of Verplanck and Fishkill where the speed limit is 25mph before and after the light. Although there are signs, 25mph is not the case with most drivers. Granted this is a busy road, but the amount of cars speeding through that stop light has become a dangerous situation for the people who live here. They have to back out of the driveway and when cars are speeding through the light it becomes extremely dangerous for them and their infant child.

What are possible solutions for this problem? Perhaps speed bumps on Verplanck and Fishkill to slow down the traffic before the light? Perhaps more police radar points? Perhaps cameras at the lights to catch speeders and send out electronic tickets? These are just a few of our thoughts and I'm sure you have ideas of your own.

If you would like to come over and sit on the front porch and experience the noise and

disregard for the town speed limits, we would love to have you! We would of course have masks and distance ourselves safely.

Thank you for everything you have done to keep Beacon safe during this pandemic. Hopefully, we can make Verplanck safer too!"

July: PD will monitor

August: PD has monitored and will continue and will continue to do so once construction in the area concludes and traffic patterns are less interrupted.

September: The PD has and will continue to monitor the area. They have not issued speeding tickets in the area due to lower than average traffic volumes because of COVID as well as slower speeds because of construction.

4. North and South Street Parking

See below a letter from Councilmember Dan Aymar Blair.

"I went back over to North and South Streets and can confirm that there is no signage restricting parking on either side of the street at the intersections with Schenck. Further, I saw there were cars parked very close to the ends of the street, less so on North St where there is a fire hydrant on the corner.

I would like to request "No Parking from Here to the Corner" signs at least on the south sides of the street at a distance determined by the Fire Department. This will prevent personal vehicles from obstructing fire trucks entering North and South Streets from Schenck."

August: The Committee recommended no parking here to corner signs on North Street on the north and south sides of the street from Schenck Avenue to a point 30 feet east. The Committee recommended no parking here to corner signs on South Street on the north and south sides of the street from Schenck Avenue to a point 30 feet east. The signs are already codified, MM will put up the signs.

September: MM reported that the signs are now up. This item will be removed from future agendas.

5. Teller Avenue Speeding

See below a letter from a resident.

"What will it take to get a stop sign or some other measure to see low the traffic down and on Teller Ave?"

We are sitting here watching cars speeding by.
It is getting worse as time goes by.

Something must be done before there is a terrible accident.

Thanks for looking into this.”

August: PD will monitor.

September: PD reported no issues in the area since the construction began. There have been no additional speeding complaints. This item is closed.

6. The PD received a complaint of speeding on Liberty Street between Stone Street and Grove Street. The PD has been monitoring the area.

September: PD has been monitoring in the days and evenings. The most recent complaint was Sunday, September, 20th. This item will remain on the agenda, the committee requested data from PD regarding frequency of monitoring and quantity of tickets issued for the October meeting.

➤ **New Business**

1. A resident called to say that there is speeding on Stratford Avenue. She said it is difficult to cross the road.

September: PD will monitor.

2. A resident on West Center Street wrote a letter formally requesting a speed hump. See attached both the letter and the speed hump criteria.

September: The road does not meet speed hump criteria because Rombout Ave is a local parallel residential road. PD will monitor the area. CM will update complainant.

3. See below a message from a resident on Mountain Lane:

“Given the increased traffic and parking that happens along East Main and Mountain Lane my concern is the lack of a sidewalk and many children including mine walking uphill to home. I believe the easiest and cheapest solution aside from putting sidewalks in would be to install STOP signs on either end of 1 lane bridge. Cars fly across bridge now and anyone walking has to take life in their hands to cross, not to mention 4 wheelers flying off private road into Mountain Lane.”

September: The Committee decided to wait to see if the no parking signs solve the issue. CM will send letter to resident. If residents in the area have concerns, they can contact the Beacon PD directly at 84 831 4111.

4. At the conclusion of the meeting, MM updated the Committee on the status of pending traffic studies. The following intersections will be studied at a later date when traffic returns to more conventional patterns.

- Spring St. and East Main St. and Washington Ave.

- Verplanck Ave. and Willow St.
- 9D and Main St.