



# City of Beacon

## Parking and Traffic Safety Committee

City Hall  
1 Municipal Plaza, Beacon, NY 12508

### **Minutes**

September 23, 2021 at 9 am

City Hall Classroom  
1 Municipal Plaza, Beacon NY 12508

Attendees: Committee Chair Matthew Dubetsky, Fire Chief Gary VanVoorhis, Police Lieutenant Jason Walden, Planning Board Representative Jill Reynolds, Carolyn Glauda, Secretary Collin Milone

#### ➤ **Old Business**

1. Washington Ave. and Helen Ct.
2. Main St. and Herbert St.
3. Leonard St. Wrong-Way Drivers
4. N. Walnut St. and Church St. Stop Signs Request

#### ➤ **New Business**

1. E. Main St. Parking
2. Verplank Ave. and Willow St.
3. Cross St. Speed

#### ➤ **Business added during the meeting**

1. Crosswalk audio on Main St.
2. Cross St. signage

#### ➤ **Recommendations**

1. Rombout Ave. and West Center St.

2. Stop Signs on Main St. Corridor Recommendations
3. E. Willow St. and Wilkes St.
4. Stop Sign on Main St. at Herbert St.

➤ **Old Business**

1. Washington Avenue & Helen Ct.

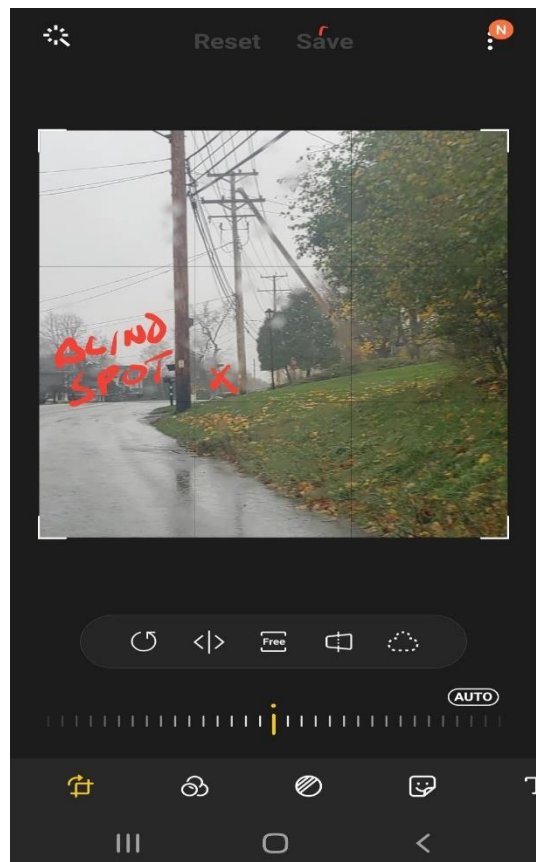
See the message from a resident below:

“The situation at Washington Ave & Helen Ct which is the entrance/exit for Glendale Estates. It is a hazardous blind spot as drivers coming east on Washington Ave round a bend in the road approaching Helen Ct. where residents exit Glendale Estates onto Washington Ave. (see picture below).

There have been several close calls recently and I am hoping to avoid accidents/injuries.....including school busses picking up students!

Is it possible to have a sign/flashing light (see picture below) installed to warn drivers of the blind exit round the bend?

I look forward to hearing from you on this important matter. Thank you.”



*January:* The Committee recommended installing a sign warning motorists of the upcoming turn and blind spot. Matt will propose which sign is appropriate at the February meeting.

*February:* Collin will write the recommendation for a flashing sign on Washington Ave in front of 470 approaching the intersection with Helen Ct. Matt Dubetsky will provide the location and sign language. Council will take this up March 29<sup>th</sup>.

*March:* The Committee will reconsider this recommendation.

*April:* Mickey Manzi and Lt. Walden will determine cost and feasibility of flashing sign.

*May:* The Committee did not have time to discuss this. It will appear on the June 24<sup>th</sup> agenda.

*June:* Mickey Manzi was not able to attend this meeting. He will update the Committee on the cost and feasibility of a flashing sign during the July meeting. He will also work with Matt Dubetsky to determine who owns the bushes near the cemetery.

*August:* The Committee discussed sign options and will review this request again at their next meeting.

*September:* The Committee recommended installing a Hidden Road sign (MUTCD W2-2R) on the southwest side of Washington Ave. approaching Helen Ct. The Committee also recommended cutting back the brush on Washington Ave. approaching Helen Ct. Collin sent this brush recommendation to the Building and Highway Departments.



*MUTCD W2-2R*

2. Main St. and Herbert St.

A resident stopped into City Hall to request that a No U Turn sign on Main Street at the entrance to Herbert Street. See sample MUTCD r3-4 sign below:



*MUTCD r3-4*

*August:* The Committee decided not to add a No U Turn sign on Main St. at Herbert St. They recommended adding a stop sign on Main Street at Herbert Street.

*September:* The resident would like the Committee to consider installing the following R1-6a MUTCD below. The Committee considered the request and did not recommend installing the sign because there is no intersection on Main St. at Herbert St.



### 3. Leonard St. Wrong-Way Drivers

See below an email from a resident regarding wrong way drivers on Leonard St.

I don't know if this is the correct department to reach out to, but I am going to email anyway. I live at the Lofts at Beacon Falls on Leonard St. My apartment basically sits at the intersection of Leonard St and Grove St and I have a window that faces Leonard St. Given that I'm in my office (the window that faces Leonard St) much of the day, I have a view of cars driving down the road. I don't have exact numbers, but I see many drivers that are going the wrong way down Leonard St, driving north (towards my building) and then making the (illegal) right turn onto Grove, or seeing the "DO NOT ENTER" signs and then turning around.

I know a second DNE sign was added to Grove St. perhaps last year, so I believe many drivers are seeing this and then turning around. (However, many simply ignore this and continue to the intersection of Grove & Liberty St.) But the signage on Leonard St itself could be better to indicate that it is indeed a one way street. I don't know where the drivers are coming from; my guess it's from the Roundhouse lot (the only other access points to the street are from this complex and across the street are separate churches). When Leonard St. (which is 2 way initially) turns into a 1 way street (at the intersection of Amity St), there only exists 1 DNE sign and I believe it's the only sign until the intersection of Leonard & Grove. There's at least one One Way sign, but that's across from St. John's Church.

Is it possible to have more signs? Perhaps a second sign at the Amity/Leonard St intersection and maybe one mid-way down the road? Thankfully I haven't witnessed any accidents (I'm sure due in part to the 30 mph limit and sharp turn of Leonard/Grove), but

I'd imagine it's only a matter of time before something occurs. Thank you for your time!

*August:* The Committee has requested that the Police Department monitor the area.

*September:* The Committee recommended installing two No Left Turn signs (MUTCD R3-2), one at each exit of *The Lofts at 50 Leonard* on the northwest side of Leonard St. in the parking median at the exits.



*MUTCD R3-2*

#### 4. North Walnut St. and Church St. Stop Signs Request

See below a message from a resident:

I would like to put in a request for a 4-way stop sign at the corner of North Walnut and Church Street.

*August:* The Committee has requested that the Police Department monitor the area.

*September:* The Committee recommended installing two stops on Church St. at N. Walnut St. The Committee also recommended installing two stop signs on Church Street at N. Cedar St. on Church St.

#### ➤ **New Business**

##### 1. E. Main St. Parking



Something strange happened up here on E Main. The No Parking signs on the north side of E Main St between Summit St & Shea Ln were removed by the city. These signs not only prevented people from parking in a very dangerous downhill portion of the street following a blind curve, but allowed our neighbors across the street to be able to enter and exit their very shallow driveway.

The rumor mill says the city removed them because they were difficult to see around a large hedge. If that was the case, why not ask to have the hedge trimmed instead of creating a new traffic problem?

Parking for hiking in our neighborhood is a significant public nuisance over the last few years, and continues to get worse over time. As you can imagine, if your front yard turns into a parking lot you get parking lot behavior - trash, parking on grass, unleashed dogs roaming and using your yard as a toilet, etc.

Please let me know if these signs will be returned, and if not how we can lobby to get that resolved. Our neighbors are very inconvenienced by parked cars directly opposite of their driveway, and all of the other neighbors I've spoken to want more No Parking zones and enforcement, not less.

Sorry this has gotten more complicated. Let me know what I can do to help.



*September:* The Committee will consider recommending the installation of no parking signs in this corridor at the October meeting once they can inquire with the Highway Department why the signs were taken down.

2. Verplank Ave. and Willow St.

The City Administrator has requested that the Committee examine the area of Verplank Ave. and Willow St. with an eye on the placement of stop bars.

*September:* The Committee noted that the stop signs were recently replaced in this location and the stop bars are in the correct location. They did note that there was brush to be cleaned up in the area, particularly on the sidewalk on the north side of 32 Willow St. The Highway Dept. will determine if the brush on the northwest corner of the intersection of Verplank Ave. and Willow St. needs to be removed in order to increase visibility of the stop sign.

3. Cross St. Speed

A resident on Cross St. send the following correspondence to the City.

For the past couple of years, there has been an increase in traffic due to the bridge, 9D train increase, and Waze app direction. One of the few good things about COVID was the drop in traffic on this road for a while. Now it has jumped back up again.

In the past weeks, it has dramatically increased on Cross Street and Orchard. At times drivers not stopping at the stop sign increased speeds and the roads looking like a highway with cars flying in both directions at once.

There are no sidewalks on the one side of the road as well and in addition, I don't understand why our speed limit is higher than Verplank too? Why is it 35 on this road? It shouldn't be.

The two previous Police Chiefs both looked into this issue the first saw this issue the second not as much. I would like to request another survey for this. This is biking, dog walking, children at the play area. Our children are scared to ride their bikes in front of their house. It's ridiculous.

In the previous findings. I would like to note there were times the scanner placed on the top of the block was off completely for hours. Again why is 35 mph ok for this block? Verplank is 25?

If need be I would be happy to allow a scanner or car to be stationed in our driveway if that helps.

*September:* The Police Department will monitor the area.



➤ **Business added during the meeting**

1. The City recently installed new crosswalks systems at key intersections along Main Street. The crosswalks are equipped with signals that make a sound in order to assist individuals who have impaired vision to cross the street safely. At the Traffic Committee meeting, a resident, Chris Moschetti, who lives on the corner of Main St. and Fishkill Ave. asked the Committee to consider lowering the volume of the audio emanating from the crosswalk signals. He said the audio is intrusively loud.
2. Lt. Walden will check to see if there is a one way or no turn sign coming out of the Hudson Beach Glass parking lot on Cross Street

➤ **Recommendations**

1. Rombout Ave. and W. Center St.

The City received a request from a resident for stop signs on South Ave. at the corners of Rombout Ave. and W. Center St.

*March:* The Police Department will assign a patrol detail at South Ave. and Academy St. and will research previous complaints. Will report back in April.

*April:* The Committee discussed an All-Way Stop intersection. The intersection is essentially two T stops rather than a four-way. Alternate solutions and/or exact stop-sign placement will be discussed during the May meeting.

*May:* The Committee did not have time to discuss this. It will appear on the June 24<sup>th</sup> agenda.

*June:* The Committee recommended installing two stop signs on South Avenue at the intersection of Rombout Avenue and South Avenue.

2. Main St. Corridor Stop Signs

See memo attached.

*April:* The Committee did not have time to discuss this memo; they will take it up during their May meeting.

*May:* The Main Street Access Advisory Committee Chair Stowe Boyd along with Committee Member Theresa Kraft presented a recommendation for stop signs along the Main Street corridor. Their memorandum on the subject can be found attached to the end of these minutes. The Traffic Committee decided to recommend the first phase of the stop sign plan to the City Council.

*June:* The Committee recommended installing stop signs in the following locations:

- A. On Church Street on the east and west side of the intersection with North Walnut Street
- B. On Church Street on the east and west side of the intersection with North Cedar Street
- C. On Dewindt Street on the east and west side of the intersection with South Cedar Street

3. E. Willow St. and Wilkes St.

Please see below a message from Councilmember Nelson.

I'm forwarding an email I received last week from a constituent. He is requesting a stop sign and a crosswalk at the corner of East Willow and Wilkes. He is hoping to get this request to the traffic committee.

I live a block away from this corner and it is indeed hazardous. There are lots of kids who play on East Willow and I've seen many cars speed through, almost hitting the children. It does merit looking into. Thanks.

*April:* The Police Department will set up a traffic detail at E. Willow St. and Wilkes St. to monitor traffic and report back in May.

*May:* The Committee did not have time to discuss this. It will appear on the June 24<sup>th</sup> meeting agenda.

*June:* The Committee recommended installing the following stop signs:

- A. On East Willow Street on the north and south side of the intersection with Wilkes Street
- B. On Wilkes Street at the intersection with East Willow Street

4. Main St. and Herbert St.

The Committee recommended installing a stop sign on Main St. at Herbert St.