



City of Beacon Parking and Traffic Safety Committee

Minutes

October 28, 2021 at 9 am

Classroom, City Hall
1 Municipal Plaza, Beacon NY 12508

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

➤ **Old Business**

1. E. Main St. Parking
2. Cross St. Speed
3. Cross St. One Way
4. Main St. Crosswalk Audio

➤ **New Business**

1. Prospect St. and Rt. 52
2. Liberty St. speeding

➤ **Recommendations**

1. Rombout Ave. and W. Center St.
2. Stop Signs on Main St. Corridor Recommendations
3. E. Willow St. and Wilkes St.
4. Main St. and Herbert St.
5. Leonard St.
6. Church St. and N. Walnut St.

7. Church St. and N. Cedar St.

Old Business

1. E. Main St. Parking

Message from a resident:

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.

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.

October: The signs that the resident on E. Main St. is referring

to were not City of Beacon No Parking signs. The City removed the signs. This item will remain on the agenda for the next meeting to determine how the Committee would like to proceed.

2. Cross St. Speed

Message from a resident:

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.

October: The Police Department will continue to monitor the area.

3. Cross St. One Way

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.

October: The Committee recommended installing a One Way sign on the east side of Cross Street at the parking lot. They also recommended installing a No Right Turn sign on the west side of Cross Street on the righthand exit of the parking lot.

4. Main St. Cross Walk Audio

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 September Traffic Committee meeting a resident 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.

October: The Committee recommended inquiring as to whether or not the sound has been turned down. If it has not been turned down, the Committee recommended turning the volume down during the overnight hours while maintaining a safe volume to assist those who are visually impaired.

New Business

1. Prospect St. and Rt. 52

Message from a resident:

Hi there. This is a request for a stop sign.

I live on Prospect Street MD in Beacon, by the Industrial Arts brewery. My address says Beacon, though I know there is some confusion about whether we are in Fishkill.

Anyway, the intersection of Prospect Street MD and Route 52 (Fishkill Ave) is incredibly

treacherous. If you're turning left onto Rt 52 from Prospect MD, you have a blind turn. And people speed down 52. Yesterday there was a horrific accident. It's not the first time it's happened. Rt 52 needs a stop sign at that intersection.

Thanks for logging my suggestion.

October: The Committee noted that this is not in the City's jurisdiction. They recommended sending the complaint to the Town of Fishkill and letting the resident know as well.

2. Liberty St. Speeding

To Whom It May Concern,

I currently reside on Liberty Street in Beacon. My family and I have lived here for almost 6 years now and the issue of drivers speeding down Liberty is of increasing concern. Not too long ago a new stop sign was installed at the corner of Grove and Liberty. This stop sign has become the 'starting line' or takeoff place for dozens of drivers (many with loud exhausts) to start speeding/racing northeast down Liberty St, usually between sunset and 1am.

Not only is the speed an issue but the sound as well. I have been working from home since the pandemic began and find cars even doing this during school hours between bus drop off and pick up. They just fly down the road.

Yesterday morning a young black cat was struck and killed three doors down from me and left by the motorist to suffer and die on the side of the road. A kind person stopped and picked it up and took it to the local vet to see if it had a chip so the owner could be notified.

As a mother with a 7 year old who attends JV Forrestal and often walks back and forth across the street and as a pet owner of two cats it's is absolutely disheartening to see this continue. I'm unsure if this issue has been discussed in recent Traffic Safety Committee meetings but if not and could be included in new business at the October 28th meeting that would be wonderful.

Any additional information I could obtain if it has already been discussed would be helpful as well.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

October: The Police Department monitored after a similar complaint and did not find an excess of

motorists speeding down the road. The Police Department will continue to monitor the area and provide any traffic data they collect including speed and traffic counts along with the number of tickets issued.

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 24th 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:

- On Church Street on the east and west side of the intersection with N. Walnut Street
- On Church Street on the east and west side of the intersection with N. Cedar Street
- On Dewindt Street on the east and west side of the intersection with S. 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 E. 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 E. 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 24th meeting agenda.

June: The Committee recommended installing the following stop signs:

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

4. Main St. and Herbert St.

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

5. Leonard St.

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

6. Church St. and N. Walnut St.

The Committee recommended installing two stops on Church St. at N. Walnut St.

7. Church St. and N. Cedar St.

The Committee recommended installing two stop signs on Church Street at N. Cedar St.