



# City of Beacon

## Parking and Traffic Safety Committee

### Minutes

March 24, 2022 at 9 am

City Hall Classroom

One Municipal Plaza, Lower Level, Beacon NY 12508

#### ➤ **Old Business**

1. Crosswalk Sign Main St. and Brett St.
2. Stop sign at Lincoln Ave. and Cannon St. – Consideration of Codification
3. Unsafe Pedestrian Signage - Phillips and Wolcott Ave. & Hillside Dr. and Wolcott Ave.
4. Robinson St. and Howland Ave. No Parking Sign
5. North Walnut St. and Verplanck Ave. Stop Sign

#### ➤ **New Business**

1. Missing Street Signs on Lincoln Avenue
2. Excessive/Dangerous Public Parking on East Main Street
3. Crosswalks on Teller Avenue

## **Old Business**

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### **1. Crosswalk Sign Main St. and Brett St.**

The City received a request from a resident to install a crosswalk sign on Main St. at N/S Brett St.

*December:* The Committee recommended installing a crosswalk sign at this location. Michael Manzi will install the sign.

*February 3:* The Committee determined that discussion surrounding this agenda item would be continued at the next scheduled Committee meeting (February 24, 2022).

*February 24:* The Committee determined that the crosswalk at the opposite side would be left where it is currently and that a double-sided pedestrian-crossing sign should be added, pending Highway Department input.

*March 24:* The Committee decided to add a 'One-Way' sign in front of Café Amarcord and to add two crossing signs at the intersection of Main Street and N/S Brett Street.

### **2. Stop sign at Lincoln Ave. and Cannon St. – Consideration of Codification**

A member of City Council brought to our attention that there is a stop sign at the intersection of Lincoln Ave. and Cannon St. which is not codified in the Beacon City Code. The intersection at Lincoln Ave. and Fishkill Ave. does not have a stop sign.

*February 3:* The Committee recommended codifying the existing stop sign at Lincoln Avenue and Cannon Street. The Committee will also further look into whether or not there are existing stop signs at Kent Street, Maple Street, and Wilkes Street and will investigate, if so, whether or not such are codified.

*February 24:* City Council is scheduled to hold a public hearing on the recommended signage addition on 3/7. The Committee will research whether or not other intersections along Cannon St. have non-codified signage as well.

*March 24:* The Committee recommended codifying all existing stop signs along Cannon Street that are not already codified.

### 3. Unsafe Pedestrian Signage - Phillips and Wolcott Ave. & Hillside Dr. and Wolcott Ave.

Message from a resident:



I am writing to you concerning the low visibility pedestrian crosswalk signs at the intersection of Phillips St. and Wolcott Ave. (Please see attached photo).

Over the last several months I have noticed that Beacon has placed highly visible pedestrian signs near the new housing on Wolcott Ave. and Memorial Park. The new signage is excellent and it strikes me that this type of signage should be used throughout the City, especially in places where pedestrians are crossing heavily traveled roads like Wolcott Ave. Based on the recent Highland Current article,

The Slowdown Everyone Wants, it seems I am not the only one who is concerned about the safety of our crosswalks.

One of the reasons that my husband and I chose to live in the City of Beacon is because it is in many respects a walkable city. We have noted during milder weather that our neighbors also enjoy walking their dogs or toddlers in strollers. One street that we need to cross in order to reach Main Street is Wolcott Ave at Phillips St. While there are some slow traffic times, we have often experienced the following in attempting to safely cross the street:

- Many drivers seem unfamiliar with the concept that pedestrians have the right of way at crosswalks
- Many drivers exceed the 30 mph speed limit so we don't risk stepping into the crosswalk assuming that they are going to fast to stop in time even if they see us
- And, there are some good citizens who actually stop to let pedestrians cross the street -- we consider that a win because once one driver stops, drivers from the other direction usually stop as well

Our assumption is that some drivers may be aware that pedestrians could be using the crosswalk at

Wolcott and Phillips, but are not clear exactly where the crosswalk is located because it is not strongly marked as indicated in the attached photo. Nor is there any signage to inform drivers to slow down in case people are crossing the street.

As I am sure that the City does not want to see any more traffic fatalities, I request that a serious audit of pedestrian crosswalks that have not been upgraded with more visible signage be conducted not only in my neighborhood, but in other areas as well to ensure that drivers are alerted to the possibility that people may be crossing busy streets.

Solutions could be as simple as adding arrows to clearly point out the crosswalk, paint the sign poles a bright neon yellow to draw attention to the crosswalks, or refresh the crosswalk street markings. Of course, traffic lights would be great and also a way to slow traffic but better signage would be a welcome first step.

I would greatly appreciate a reply advising me of plans that the City has to improve pedestrian safety in Beacon as well as improving the signage at Phillips Street and Wolcott Ave. in the near future.

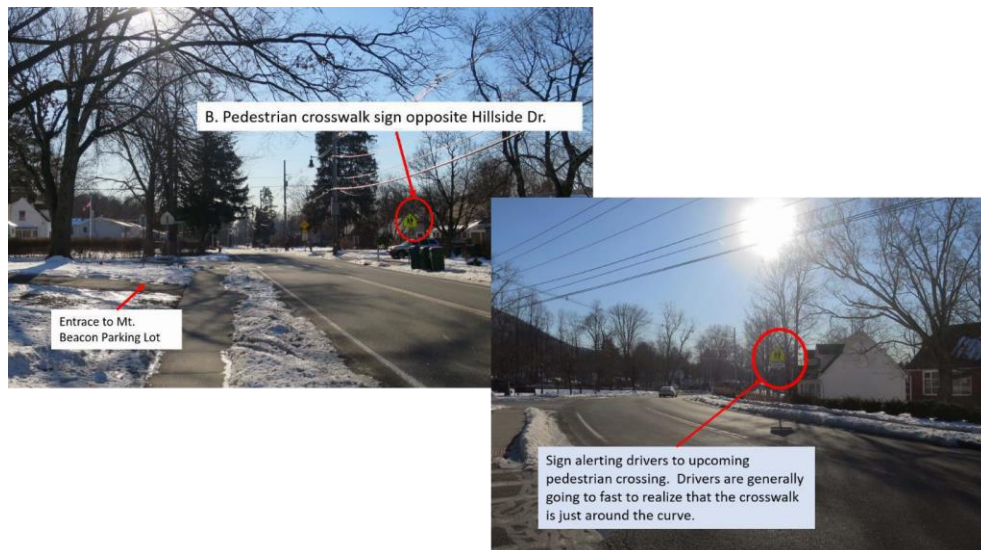
A second message from the same resident:

I took some additional photos of the crosswalk signage at Hillside Dr. and Wolcott which is also in my neighborhood. As I assume you are aware, this is a fairly busy area in warmer weather because of the entrance to the Mt. Beacon parking lot and the presence of many hikers.

Image A - the corner of Hillside Dr. and Wolcott is a school bus stop where students wait for the bus. Their wait also coincides with some early morning rush hour traffic which is often above the speed limit. It would seem that enhancing the visibility of the crosswalk sign would make sense not only for those crossing the street but also to help slow traffic for students congregated on the corner.

Image B - On the opposite side of Wolcott. The concern here is that the oncoming cars are often speeding up the hill. While there is a sign indicating a pedestrian crossing ahead before reaching the top of the hill, the drivers really can't anticipate how close the crosswalk is because of the curve.

Again as I suggested in my first email, it would be good to look at all the crosswalk signage on Wolcott as well as other busy streets that have not been upgraded. Solutions could be as simple as adding arrows to the signs that are located at the crosswalk.



*February 3:* Michael Manzi will look into installing crosswalk signs that are brighter and to adding reflecting material to the sign-posts. Further, Michael Manzi will continue looking into upgrading crosswalk signs.

*February 24:* The Highway Department determined that the signs of concern belong to New York State, but did add reflective tape to the posts for such. The item is continued to next meeting to discuss possible contact with DOT or the County for next steps.

*March 24:* The Highway Superintendent will ask NYS DOT to change signs to be brighter.

#### **4. Robinson St. and Howland Ave. No Parking Sign**

Message from a resident:

A while ago, 3 stop signs were placed at the intersection of Robinson st. and Howland ave. These were necessary and were a big improvement. I remember reading in the minutes of the meeting where these were approved that a no parking here to corner sign was supposed to be installed also on the northeast corner of Robinson at the intersection. This was never done and cars are always parking too close to the corner making it dangerous to navigate that corner when turning right onto Robinson from Howland. I'm requesting the traffic safety committee to reevaluate that intersection....thank you...

*February 24:* The Committee is recommending that the Highway Department measure 30 feet from the intersection along Robinson Street to inform further discussion on the topic.

*March 24:* The Committee recommends placing a 'No Parking' sign 30 feet from the turn.

#### **5. North Walnut St. and Verplanck Ave. Stop Sign**

Message from a resident:

Good Morning,

This is my second formal request for a stop sign at N Walnut and Verplanck. Due to the elevation, turn in the road and hill

from the cemetery, this is a blind intersection. It is quite dangerous for children, people walking dogs, and those with disability to cross. There is also no cross walk. Please let me know next steps into proposing this to the city again.

Thank you.

*February 24:* The Committee declined to make the intersection at the above location a four-way stop at this time, with consideration of the following factors: there is a two way stop and a traffic light further down the roadway. The Committee will look to discuss strategy and concerns with regards to Verplanck more holistically at future meetings. The Committee may also explore whether or not Dutchess County will conduct a study of Verplanck.

*March 24:* The Committee decided to add a 'Crosswalk Ahead' sign approaching over the hill and adding crosswalk paint from the sidewalks on North Walnut. The Committee also decided to place temporary 'Crosswalk Ahead' signage approaching from the opposite direction.

## New Business

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### 1. Missing Street Signs on Lincoln Avenue

Message from a resident:

Hello,

I'm writing to request that the city please replace the two missing street name signs on our street, Lincoln Ave in Beacon. On both ends of the street - the corner where Lincoln meets Rte 52/Fishkill ave, and the one way at Cannon St. - the Lincoln Ave sign has been missing for a couple years now. This sometimes confuses visitors and delivery drivers.

Could the city please address this and replace the signs?

Thank you for your time and prompt attention to this matter.

*March 24:* Beacon Police Department determined that the sign at this location is missing. Highway Department will replace. The Committee determined that this item will be removed from the agenda going forward.

### 2. Excessive/Dangerous Pubic Parking on East Main Street

Message from a resident:

Is there any reason we cannot have RESIDENT ONLY PARKING signs?

<https://whitetrailparkinglot.live/>

The traffic in our neighborhood is only getting worse, and all we get is the runaround about Traffic Safety meetings.

*March 24:* The Committee determined that the area of concern is a city street and is therefore open for public parking. However, the Beacon Police Department will monitor parking during weddings and special events for issues going forward. The Committee determined that this item will be removed from the agenda going forward.

### 3. Crosswalks on Teller Avenue

Committee Member Carolyn Bennet Glauda would like to discuss the possibility of adding crosswalks at the following intersections on Teller Avenue: Teller Avenue & Rombout and nearby to the Ballet Arts Studio Dutchess Dance Company.

*March 24:* The Committee decided that at the time when Teller Avenue is repaved, crosswalks should be added at both Henry Street. and Rombout Street.

#### **4. Stop Sign coming out of Hiddenbrook Drive (Added to agenda at meeting)**

*March 24:* The Committee discussed adding an additional stop sign at the intersection of Hiddenbrook Drive and Depuyster Avenue to create a four-way stop. The Committee determined that those entering onto Depuyster Avenue from Hiddenbrook Drive must already stop and yield right of way. Therefore, the Committee determined that an additional stop sign is not necessary at this time.

#### **5. Missing Sign at Teller Avenue and Wolcott Avenue (Added to agenda at meeting)**

*March 24:* The Committee discussed a missing 'No Parking' Sign at the above intersection. The Highway Department will replace such.