



City of Beacon

Parking and Traffic Safety Committee

Minutes

November 3, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

1 Municipal Plaza, Beacon, NY 12508

Lower-Level Classroom

➤ Old Business

1. Unsafe Pedestrian Signage - Phillips and Wolcott Ave. & Hillside Dr. and Wolcott Ave.
2. Route 9D Approaching Sargent Elementary School
3. Exeter Circle Parking
4. Wilkes Street Speed Concerns

➤ New Business

1. Parking from Upper East Main Street to Mountain Lane
2. Signage at Washington Avenue and Depuyster Avenue
3. Signage on Liberty Street
4. South Avenue Speed Bump
5. Traffic Light at 9D and Tioranda Avenue
6. Intersection of Union Street and Prospect Street
7. Union Street Parking

1. Unsafe Pedestrian Signage - Phillips and Wolcott Avenue & Hillside Drive and Wolcott Avenue

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.

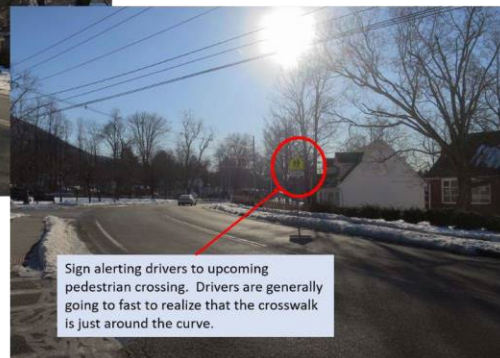
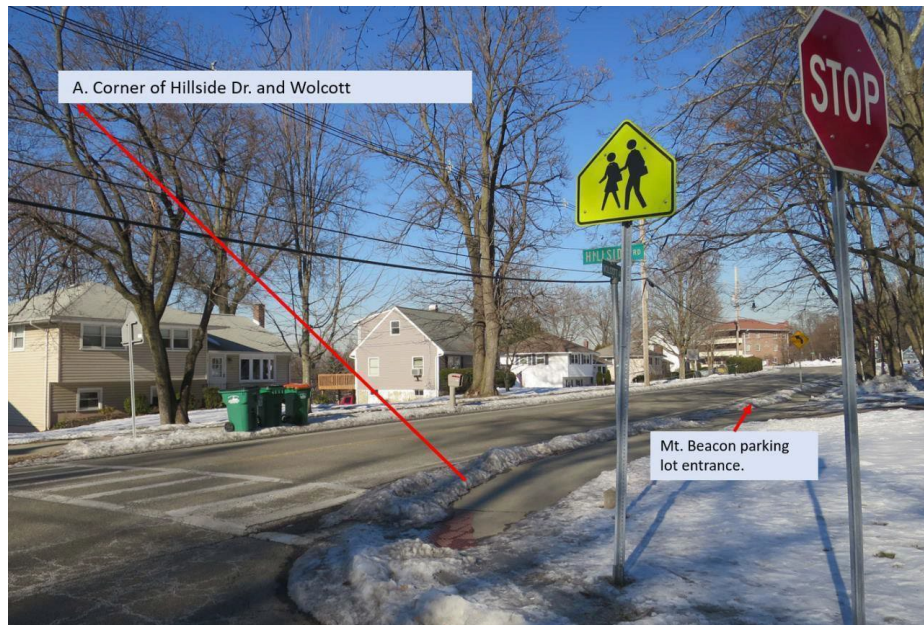
A second message from the same resident:

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.

April 28: The City is awaiting response from NYS DOT.

May 26: The matter is continued for next meeting, still pending response from NYS DOT.

June 23: The matter is continued for next meeting, pending response from NYS DOT.

August 25: The matter will trail to the next Meeting. Highway Department will follow up with NYS DOT.

September 22: The matter was tabled for continued discussion at the October 2022 Committee Meeting.

November 3: The matter was tabled pending Highway Department hearing back from DOT.

2. Route 9D Approaching Sargent Elementary School

The following message was received from a resident:

Good morning! I'd like to find out if it would be possible to add 2 flashing crosswalk signs and new paint to the crosswalk at the intersection of Route 9D and the Sargent Elementary School Road. My family has had numerous close calls with cars that refuse to stop at the crosswalk. I'd like to think that if the crosswalk were more visible then perhaps motorists would obey this New York State law. I am not the only person affected by this; many other residents have also experienced this problem. If you need assistance with the work, I'd be willing to help. Thanks for your consideration of a clearly needed infrastructure improvement to our community.

Updated message to provide clarity (Received 9/20/22):

I thought that new paint and a crosswalk sign would be a good idea. Since I sent in this suggestion, the crosswalk was repainted.

I've noticed these issues when taking my children to the school and crossing 9D when there is no crossing guard on duty. So, after the school day in the evening or on the weekend.

Thanks very much.

June 23: The Committee will discuss the possibility of flashing signs or yellow pedestrian crossing signage on

either side of 9D with the Department of Public Works.

August 25: The Highway Department will research the cost of flashing signs or yellow crossing signate. Committee members indicated that there are crossing guards at said location and that the cross-walk itself is newly-painted. The Committee will follow up with the concerned party to ascertain further detail on the nature of the issue(s) experienced.

September 22: The Highway Department will update the existing crosswalk sign with a brighter sign and will add “ahead” language. The sign approaching the other direction will be similarly updated. The Highway Department will check if the foliage near the signs needs to be trimmed back.

November 3: The matter will be discussed further at the next committee meeting.

3. Exeter Circle Parking

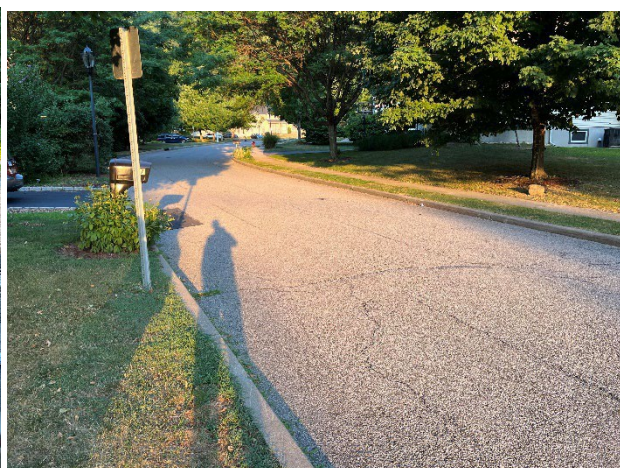
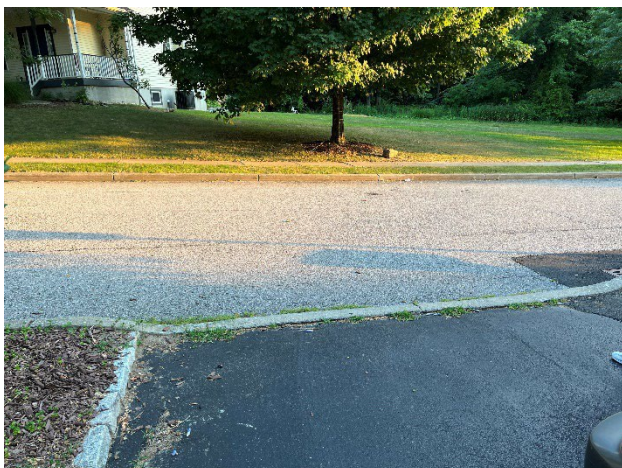
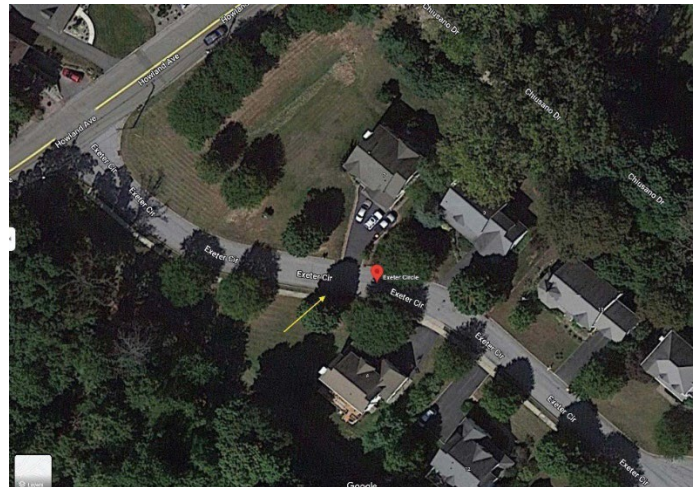
The following email was received:

While parking is banned on the north side of Exeter Circle, mountain tourists continue to park on the south side of the street. This creates congestion, and people speeding up and back from the cul de sac to get out. It's a particular problem however for 7 Exeter Circle (see photos and yellow arrow on the map) who cannot back out of their driveway when a car is parked across from their driveway on what looks like the narrowest stretch of the street.

Yellow-striping the section across from the driveway seems like the simplest solution but I'm open to other solutions.

I'd love to create a solution that limits tourist parking but allows residents' guests to still park on the street. Are there street signs that say parking is for residents only that could be posted at the entrance to Exeter Circle? Or perhaps a few parking spots could be painted at the west end of the street so people think the rest of the road is no-parking?

Thanks for considering this.



August 25: This item will trail to the September 22, 2022 Traffic Safety Committee Meeting.

September 22: Committee members will visit the area and consider adding hash marks opposite impacted driveways along this street. If such is added, signage will need to be added to reflect the no parking areas.

November 3: The Committee recommended no parking signs opposite 7 Exeter circle; The Highway Department will measure required distances to recommend for the amendment to the City Code.

4. Wilkes Street Speed Concerns

A resident called with concerns about speeding along Wilkes Street. The resident would like ask for a speed indicator sign and police enforcement for the area. The resident also noted that other neighbors share their concerns.

August 25: Three community members attended to discuss the area of concern with the Committee. The community members provided a signed letter from neighbors to the same effect. Community members voiced concerns of speeding, signs not being easily visible, and lack of crosswalks. Community members suggested speed bumps or something to slow traffic.

The Committee will research whether speed bumps or humps can be installed as well as the costs of permanent speed indicator signs. The Committee will also consider whether placing traffic and speed counter units may be appropriate along Wilkes.

September 22: The Police Department has stopped 12 cars, issued 5 tickets, and will continue monitoring – especially around school adjournment. The Highway Department will put out a portable reader unit to collect data on the street usage.

November 3: The Police Department did place out the portable traffic speed sign temporarily and will replace it again once a component is received for a necessary repair to such.

New Business

1. Parking from Upper East Main Street to Mountain Lane

The following email was received:

I am writing to express my concern and outrage over the parking on the sides of the road heading up East Main Street to Mountain Lane. Every day, but mostly on Saturday and Sundays, upper East Main to Mountain Lane turns into a one lane road.

I have attached two photos so you can see what I am talking about. I have many more if needed. Endless times I have come from my home or have tried to get back home and have encountered close calls with other cars hitting me straight on, not to mention the people who walk in the middle of the road.

Yes, our Mount Beacon is a tourist attraction and is uniquely beautiful to see, however the city needs to do something about the people who are parking wherever they please. This happens all year long, but with fall upon us it has become dangerous and ridiculous.

There is no way at all that a fire truck, ambulance or first responder could ever pass through if there was an emergency. I understand that the city put up no parking signs on both sides of the road in areas but it's simply not enough. There should be no parking on either side of that road.

Please let me know where else I need to reach out to get something done about this ongoing problem. Thank you in advance.



November 3: The Traffic Safety Committee recommended extending the existing no parking zone along Mountain Lane to Shea Lane.

2. Signage at Washington Avenue and Depuyster Avenue

The following email was received:

The intersection of Washington Avenue and Depuyster Avenue needs some sort of flashing light or reflector placed at the intersection as cars turn left onto Depuyster. For those who are Unfamiliar with the fork in the road, it comes up suddenly and causes drivers to cheer left without warning... could there be some sort of reflector or flasher installed at that intersection for safety purposes?

Thank you

November 3: The Committee previously has requested a Traffic Study from Dutchess County at the above intersection, which would address this concern, as well. The Committee will refrain from further recommendation pending results of such. The Committee expects to know more in the spring of 2023.

3. Signage on Liberty Street:

The following email was received:

Thanks for all the work you do keeping our streets safer and making them safer.

The JV Forrestal school zone sign on Liberty Street travelling south is directly across from the school. Can we move the sign further north?

In that same area, I had a neighbor ask if there should be a Do Not Enter on both sides of the exit driveway that leads to the JVF parking lot. He reported that people enter the exit with regularity.

Thanks so much for adding these two items to your T&S Committee Agenda.

November 3: The Committee suggested moving the existing sign north to 226 Liberty Street pole. The Committee found that the existing 'do not enter' sign along the driveway to the JVF parking lot is sufficient.

4. South Avenue Speed Bump:

The following email was received:

We wanted to inquire about the process for getting a speed bump, enforceable sign, or some other traffic/speed control measure, put in on South Ave (south of Wolcott Ave). We regularly have cars speeding around the curves and one almost hit us and our dog.

November 3: This agenda item was tabled for further discussion pending Highway Department input.

5. Traffic Light at 9D and Tioranda Avenue:

The following email was received:

Hey so I've been looking to make an inquiry as to the traffic light at the intersection of 9D and Tioronda Ave. Late at night on my motorcycle, when I'm leaving beacon to go home and there isn't a lot of traffic, I find myself waiting at the red light trying to make a left onto 9D. If there isn't a car behind me the red light will not change at all, I've literally sat there for 2-5 mins before. Yet if a car drives up behind me as soon as they pull up the light changes, so this should mean my motorcycle is not being picked up by the sensors on the road. At this point I've avoided that Rd late at night and have to go around which isn't ideal and I find myself leaving beacon late often. If y'all could let me know what needs to be done to have this assessed and hopefully changed, that would be great.

November 3: The Committee will refer to the Highway Department to inquire with NYS DOT if the sensors are properly working at the intersection of concern.

6. Intersection of Union Street and Prospect Street:

The following email was received:

There are two stop signs at Union and Prospect is at the corner of Green St Park that is, per the final design, intended to be the entrance of the park. Commonly, drivers on Prospect are unaware that it is NOT a four-way stop sign and lurch out, expecting the driver on Union to stop. It's happened several times to me personally and it's a well-known problem in the neighborhood because of all the little children around. I would like to submit that this intersection should be a four-way stop sign.

If this can't happen for some reason, I would request some indication on the stop sign itself that its two-way, not four-way. This latter request was submitted by a concerned parent in the neighborhood. However, I still believe that getting cars to stop at this intersection on all sides is what's safest for everyone at Green St Park.

November 3: The Committee recommended adding 'two-way' notation underneath the two existing stop signs, if they exist.

7. Union Street Parking

The following email was received:

Good day I'm writing this request for a no parking sign to be placed on union st. At the corner of Russell Av. My reasons are it is not a legal parking spot. According to the vehicle and traffic law there is no parking 30 feet from a stop sign and 15 feet from an active driveway. By parking there it obstructs any safe exiting from our shared driveway it causes us to ride on a grass area between the sidewalk and road. Parking in this space also hinders emergency vehicle response (turning from Russell Av onto union st.) especially in the winter with snow on the road. I have attached pictures of a vehicle parked in this spot. A no parking sign would be a great help to us thank you.



November 3: The Committee recommended a 'no parking sign' on Union approaching Russell 'from here to corner,' immediately past the closest driveway to said intersection.