



# City of Beacon Parking and Traffic Safety Committee

## **Minutes**

January 26, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.  
1 Municipal Plaza, Beacon, NY 12508  
Lower-Level Classroom

### ➤ **Old Business**

1. Route 9D Approaching Sargent Elementary School
2. Exeter Circle Parking
3. Wilkes Street Speed Concerns
4. Signage on Liberty Street
5. South Avenue Speed Bump
6. Intersection of Union Street and Prospect Street
7. Turning Right on Red from Main Street on to 9D
8. Turning Left from 9D onto Main Street
9. Intersection of Catherine Street and Teller Avenue

### ➤ **New Business**

1. Crossing Wolcott Avenue
2. Concerns on East Main (nearby to 27-31 East Main St.)
3. Stop Signs at the intersection of DeWindt Street and South Walnut Street.
4. Referral from the City of Beacon Planning Board: 12 Highland Place Subdivision

## Old Business

---

### **1. 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, 2022:* 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, 2022:* 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, 2022:* The matter will be discussed further at the next committee meeting.

*December 1, 2022:* Crosswalk repainting at this location has been completed. The Highway Department will put one northbound and one southbound crosswalk sign up and will check into adding "ahead" language.

*January 25, 2023:* The Highway Department has updated signage to address the concern. This item will be removed from the agenda moving forward.

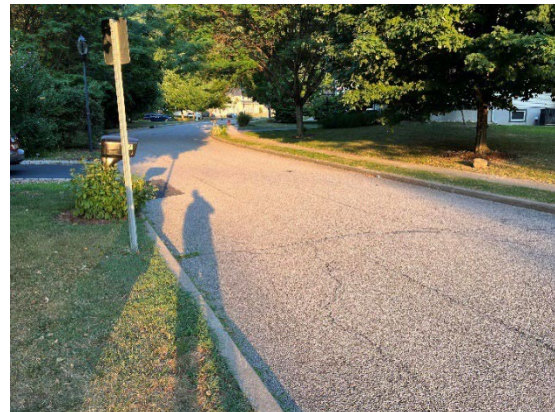
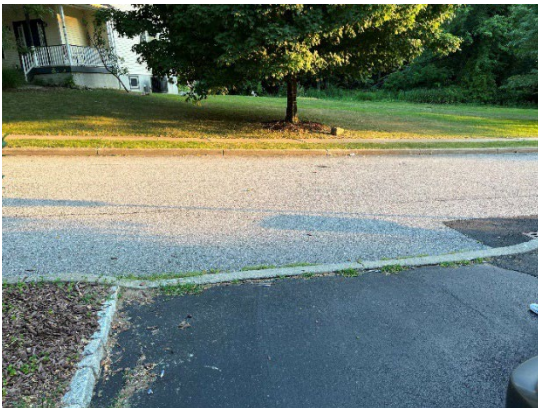
## 2. Exeter Circle Parking

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

*September 22, 2022:* 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, 2022:* 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.

*December 1, 2022:* The Highway Department will measure and provide such for the council to use in the next batch of traffic local laws to consider.

*January 26, 2023:* The Committee has reconsidered the issue and determined that there is no action that can be taken, as the City cannot have personalized no parking zones for particular residences or properties. This item will be removed from the agenda moving forward.

### **3. 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, 2022:* 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, 2022:* 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, 2022:* 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.

*December 1, 2022:* The Speed sign is up and the Police Department is increasing patrols in the area. The Highway Department is putting up “children at play” signage.

*January 26, 2023:* The Police Department reported having received positive feedback on increased enforcement at this location. The Highway Department has put up signs and will repaint the white lines in the Spring. There is no room for double yellow lines. This item will be removed from the agenda moving forward.

### **4. 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, 2022:* 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.

*December 1, 2022:* The committee recommended moving the existing sign to the fence at the edge of the school property.

*January 26, 2023:* The Highway department will move the sign to a location opposite the last exit from the school. This item will be removed from the agenda moving forward.

## **5. 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, 2022:* This agenda item was tabled for further discussion pending Highway Department input.

*December 1, 2022:* The Police Department will look at history at that location and will increase patrols going forward. The Department will also look into moving the mobile speed reader sign near to the bend of South Avenue south of Wolcott.

*January 26, 2023:* The Police Department has increased traffic patrols in the area and reported that, upon review, there is no great area at the location for a speed indicator sign. This item will be removed from the agenda moving forward.

## **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, 2022:* The Committee recommended adding 'two-way' notation underneath the two existing stop signs, if they exist.

*December 1, 2022:* The Highway Department is looking into procuring the above signage.

*January 26, 2023:* The Highway Department reported that the City's supplier doesn't create 'two-way' notation signage, but that 'cross traffic' sign language has been procured and installed. This item will be removed from the agenda moving forward.

## **7. Turning Right on Red from Main Street on to 9D**

There was a suggestion to request that DOT allow for removing the limit on making right turns from Main Street onto 9D. Line of sight is good at the intersection and allowing for such would limit the backing up of traffic on Main Street towards 9D.

*December 1, 2022:* The Committee asked the administration to reach out to DOT to ask if we need their approval to make the above change.

*January 26, 2023:* this item will trail, pending DOT response to an inquiry submitted on the matter.

## **8. Turning Left from 9D onto Main Street**

There was a suggestion to request that DOT allow for making some upgrades to the signaling at the location to help alleviate safety concerns at the intersection.

*December 1, 2022:* The Committee asked the administration to reach out to DOT to ask if they will change the signaling southbound at the above intersection with a steady red turn arrow. The Committee did ask that the timing was considered to keep things moving and avoid backups along 9D, however.

*January 26, 2023:* this item will trail, pending DOT response to an inquiry submitted on the matter.

## **9. Intersection of Catherine Street and Teller Avenue**

A concern was raised regarding the lack of a street light at this intersection, leading to dark conditions turning from Catherine onto Teller at night, compounded by the private wall along the right side of Catherine Street.

*December 1, 2022:* The Highway Department will look into adding a street light at said intersection and will coordinate with Central Hudson to determine feasibility.

*January 26, 2023:* The Highway Department has reached out to Central Hudson and further action is pending their response. The City Administrator will sign an approval letter once Central Hudson authorizes a new street light. The Highway Department is tentatively planning to add such soon. There is no action that can be taken regarding the private retaining wall at the intersection.

## **New Business**

---

### **1 Crossing Wolcott Ave.**

The following email was received:

[My] son attends Sargent Elementary and the after-school program that Beacon Recreation provides. Although there is a crossing guard at Wolcott Ave crossing points in the mornings, when we return from after-school it's unsafe for him to cross on is own.

I was curious if the City of Beacon has ever considered using flashing crosswalk signs with push button activation to help slow down traffic when someone is looking to cross (like this one), especially at this intersection where elementary children are trying to cross a busy Wolcott Ave.

I would be happy to start a petition to gauge interest in this type of device for families in the area.

*January 26, 2023:* The City has previously added 'cross-walk ahead' signage approaching the area of concern. The Highway Department will get pricing for the requested type of sign and how they could be synced with one another. Chief VanVoorhis will reach out to the Village of Fishkill to see how they have synced theirs.

### **2 Concerns on East Main (nearby to 27-31 East Main St.)**

A handicapped resident that lives along East Main St. called with three concerns:

- 1) They are having trouble getting across street to the store. Currently, there is no cross walk and drivers cross the stretch very quickly. The individual would like stop signs at the intersection and a crosswalk on the south side nearby to the store (Durkins).
- 2) 27-31 East Main St. has a blind driveway entering onto east main street and the resident would like a blind driveway sign.
- 3) The Resident would like the yellow striping that used to run along east main all the way up to the dummy light to be painted on again to prevent people from turning early in front of the light onto main street.

*January 26, 2023:*

- 1) The Committee determined that stop signs at this area would not be appropriate, but will continue discussion on the topic of crosswalks in the area at the February meeting.
- 2) The Committee expressed that they do not feel a 'blind driveway' sign is required in the area described, as there is good visibility coming out of the driveway onto East Main St.
- 3) The Highway Department reported that the yellow striping will be painted back in the Spring.

### **3 Stop Signs at the intersection of DeWindt Street and South Walnut Street.**

The following email was received:

I'd like the traffic and safety committee to consider placing stop signs on DeWindt Street at the intersection of South Walnut Street. Every intersection on DeWindt has four stop signs except for DeWindt and South Walnut Street. Cars on DeWindt speed through the intersection at South Walnut Street and it's clearly a hazard.

*January 26, 2023:* This item will trail for discussion at the February Committee Meeting.

#### **4. Referral from the City of Beacon Planning Board: 12 Highland Place Subdivision**

Residents in the neighborhood have concerns about additional traffic from the proposed subdivision, the width of the road, concerns with removing parking from one side of the street, and the ability of emergency services to access the subdivision. Committee members were provided (separately) with all the public comment letters received for the January meeting and one sent in advance of the February meeting. Please review for suggestions on whether concerns are valid and, if so, ways to address such.

*January 26, 2023:* The Committee will issue a letterhead summary of their discussions to the Planning Board. In summary, the Committee made the following determinations:

- The width of the roadway in question is compliant with the City Code.
- Chief VanVoorhis does not have concerns about emergency vehicle access. Specifically, the large central driveway would be the access point for apparatuses, which could then access all structures from that point. So long as the area immediately opposite such does not have vehicle parked in front of such, there should be no issue. That point appears to be a driveway also, so it should not be an issue. If that changes, there should be no parking allowed opposite said driveway.
- The Committee analyzed the possibilities of sidewalks being added either along Highland Place or Grove Street, but found that such was not feasible as there is very little room for such, and that the surrounding streets offer no sidewalks for any to connect to, even if they were added.
- The Committee had no issues with limiting parking on the west side of Highland Place. The Police Department reported very minimal usage of that side for parking as-is, and found that the parking spot allotment the submitted map for each property seemed adequate to handle the new resident's parking.