



City of Beacon Parking and Traffic Safety Committee

Minutes

March 23, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.
1 Municipal Plaza, Beacon, NY 12508
Lower-Level Classroom

➤ Old Business

1. Turning Right on Red from Main Street on to 9D
 2. Turning Left from 9D onto Main Street
 3. Crossing Wolcott Avenue
 4. Concerns on East Main (nearby to 27-31 East Main St.)
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1. Pedestrian Lighting on Beekman Street.
 2. Wilkes Street Speeding.

➤ New Business

1. Planning Board Referral: 1113 Wolcott Avenue

Old Business

1. 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.

February 23, 2023: this item will trail, pending DOT response to an inquiry submitted on the matter

March 23, 2023: The Administration will follow up on this inquiry prior to the next meeting.

2. 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.

February 23, 2023: this item will trail, pending DOT response to an inquiry submitted on the matter

March 23, 2023: The Administration will follow up on this inquiry prior to the next meeting.

3. 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 his 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.

February 23, 2023: Highway Department received quotes on requested signage and will check the feasibility of different signs for feasibility at the location on existing poles. Signs have wireless communicators between themselves to light up both sides simultaneously. After finalizing research on such, the Highway Superintendent will speak with the City Administrator on the matter.

March 23, 2023: the Highway Superintendent will look at the cost differential for a double-sided sign and will speak with the City Administrator regarding the above and the item will trail until the April meeting. The Fire Chief reached out to the Beacon School District about sharing the costs of the proposal.

4. 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.

The Same resident from above followed up on the above matter:

- 1) They reiterated the need for stop signs, not just a cross walk at the intersection nearby to Durkins.
- 2) They clarified that their concern is that cars coming around the bend do not have a clear line of sight of drivers pulling out of the driveway at 27-31 East Main St.

February 23, 2023: The Committee determined that it is not feasible to place stop signs at that location as there are no good locations in the area for doing such. The Committee also reiterated their belief that a blind driveway sign is not warranted as they do not find that it will be helpful. The Committee is open to a new crosswalk at the location in question, with new signs corresponding to such, but acknowledge that such would be quite expensive and would require administration involvement.

March 23, 2023: The Committee will consider ADA ramps in the future as part of a more wholistic effort to address sidewalks and ramps city-wide, but is not making a suggestion to add them currently. This matter will be removed from the agenda going forward.

5. Pedestrian Lighting on Beekman Street.

The following suggestion for pedestrian Lights on Beekman Street was received:

When I cross Beekman walking up the hill from the train; cars cannot see pedestrians at night. Very dangerous. Should put flashing cross lights like on 9d.

February 23, 2023: The Highway Department is currently in talks to improve painted parking spot interference with the crosswalk near to Ferry St. The Secretary to the Committee will follow up with the concerned community member to clarify the intersection in question.

Update: The same individual clarified that the area in question is the crosswalk right near the intersection of Ferry and Beekman Streets.

March 23, 2023: The Committee may look at lighting in future, but will first look at the impact of planned crosswalk improvements and new 'sidewalk ahead' signage.

6. Wilkes Street Speeding.

I'm a new resident of Wilkes Street, and have been concerned about the number of speeding cars (often going >40 MPH) on Wilkes, which has a speed limit of 15 MPH and abuts a popular park frequented by children.

I was reading through the latest Committee's meeting minutes, and saw that other members of the street have raised this issue and you all have been investigating for a few months. This is fantastic! I noticed this note concluding the study:

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.

The speed signs have since disappeared and people appear to be speeding again. Will those signs reappear in the spring? Also, we've seen police pull over numerous people on the road, but surely installing a few speed humps would be a better use of town resources long term. Does the street qualify for speed humps based on this selection criteria? If not, could you please share how it has not qualified? Thank you for all your work!

February 23, 2023: the Police Department recently placed a solar panel on the mobile speed sign that had been in the area, and will rotate such back to Wilkes in the near future. Police will also continue enforcement in the area. The Committee also noted that the upcoming Fishkill and Teller Avenues Rehabilitation Project will include a new traffic light at Ron's Ice Cream.

March 23, 2023: The Police Department will be placing a speed sign on Wilkes in the near future. This item will be removed from the agenda going forward.

New Business

1. Planning Board Referral: 1113 Wolcott Avenue

The Planning Board is seeking input from the Traffic Safety Committee regarding the availability of on-street parking within a quarter mile of the 1113 Wolcott Avenue Proposal Site. The plans for such have been provided for your review separately.

March 23, 2023: the Committee found that on-street parking surrounding 1113 Wolcott Avenue to be adequate, but did recommend avoiding overflow on particular surrounding roadways and to allow for the Planning Board to have flexibility in addressing parking issues as they develop once operations at the facility begin. The Committee is open to providing input on any further issues that arise, as well. A memorandum to this effect was issued to the Planning Board ahead of their March meeting.