



# City of Beacon Parking and Traffic Safety Committee

## Minutes

July 27, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

1 Municipal Plaza, Beacon, NY 12508

Lower-Level Classroom

### ➤ **Old Business**

1. Verplanck and Dutchess Terrace Crosswalk
2. Wilkes Street Speed Bumps
3. Liberty Street and Angela Court Pedestrian Safety

### ➤ **New Business**

1. 25 MPH City-Wide Speed Limit

## **Old Business**

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### **1. Verplanck and Dutchess Terrace Crosswalk**

The following message was received:

I live on Dutchess Terrace in Beacon. I have two second graders that attend school at South Avenue Elementary and each morning we walk/scooter to school along with another family across the street. I'm writing because the intersection of Verplanck and Dutchess Terrace that we need to cross to get to the school is a very dangerous one. There is a cross walk there, however the lines are faded and because there is no signage, it is very difficult for drivers to see when coming over the crest of the hill on Verplanck driving toward 9D. Needless to say, cars drive very fast down Verplanck and even with two adults there it is very nerve wracking to cross with four kids on scooters each morning and afternoon. I know there are other families besides our two that cross this intersection as well.

I'd like to request that some of the tall bright yellow/green crosswalk signs be put at this intersection.

*May 25, 2023:* The resident who had submitted the above attended the May meeting and noted that Verplanck and Cross Street have the same issues. The Highway Department will place crosswalk signage at the intersections of Cross Street and Dutchess Terrace and Verplanck and Dutchess Terrace.

*June 22, 2023:* The Highway Department has received signs and is awaiting sign-posts. The Committee also recommends to the City Council to make Dutchess Terrace one-way heading northbound between Verplanck and Talbot Avenues.

*July 27, 2023:* This item will be discussed further at a future meeting.

### **2. Wilkes Street Speed Bumps**

The Committee was asked to discuss the legality and safety of the new speed bumps installed along Wilkes St.

*June 22, 2023:* This item will be discussed further at a future meeting.

Update: The City's Engineer will be evaluating the speed bumps at this location in the near future and this item will trail for a future discussion.

*July 27, 2023:* This item will be discussed further at a future meeting.

### **3. Liberty Street and Angela Court Pedestrian Safety**

The following proposal was received:

I live at the corner of Liberty Street and Angela Court, where my partner and I moved in late summer of last year. I have a modest proposal for improving the overall safety of this intersection and area.

## **The Problem**

Over the course of a full school year passing at the adjacent JV Forrestal, which sits across Liberty from us, I took in the daily routine of folks coming to drop off their kids in the mornings and pick them up in the afternoons. Additionally, I've learned that there are many folks in Angela Court with pets they walk, very often crossing the street to the school or the adjacent sidewalk, as there is no sidewalk on the West side (Angela Court side) of the street.

Over time, it has become clear that there is a significant lack of visibility for folks trying to cross Liberty Street from Angela Court — especially for young children and the parents who might or might not be accompanying them across, as well as residents walking their pets.

(Please see [examples folder 1.](#))

In addition, on this particular stretch of road, the point at which most people cross the street is also the point at which people are going the fastest speed and are often speeding. Because there is a downhill slope from the stop sign at the corner of Grove St/Leonard St, many folks take the opportunity to dramatically accelerate into this stretch of liberty Street. Similarly, folks traveling Southbound towards Grove St/Leonard St are coming from a long unencumbered straightaway that dips downhill at the school, and so folks often are speeding down into this dip in this direction, as well. This is particularly true in the evening, when visibility is lowest.

The "Slow Crossing" sign sits well after the point in the road where folks are already speeding (heading South), and until recently was so encroached by the adjacent property's bushes that the sign wasn't even legible from the road.

(Please see [examples folder 2.](#))

Lastly, because there are no sidewalk cut-outs, it would be extremely difficult for anyone with mobility issues to cross the street anywhere near Angela Court, even though there is nearly an extension of the sidewalk that could get folks to and from the neighborhood.

(Please see [examples folder 3.](#))

## **The Proposal**

With all of this in mind, I would like to propose striping a crosswalk at this particular intersection. The added visibility of the stripes will create a much higher degree of safety for young children and their parents as well as pet owners and their beloved pets who are crossing at this intersection anyway with great frequency.

In addition, I would ideally like to see signage for school crossing moved closer to this intersection, and I would absolutely love to see curb cutouts (and the final extension of the sidewalk to the road!) on either side of the stripes, such that kids on bikes, folks with mobility issues, and anyone else simply trying to have an easier time getting up and over the curb would have greater access and ease crossing here.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this proposal. I'm happy to respond to any questions or add additional detail as necessary. I deeply appreciate all you do to help keep everyone in the City of Beacon safe!

*June 22, 2023:* The resident who submitted the above request and recommendation will inquire whether or not the Angela Court HOA would consider building out the sidewalk on the private property such that a crosswalk would be possible. The City will research whether there are any legal requirements or obstacles surrounding private-to-public crosswalk connections.

Update: The Administration has referred the above question as to the legality of building a crosswalk between public and private ADA ramps to the City's Attorneys for review. An update will be provided to the Committee as soon as such is received.

*July 27, 2023:* This item will be discussed further at a future meeting.

## **New Business**

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### **1. 25 MPH City-Wide Speed Limit**

The City Council will likely be moving forward with a study regarding potentially lowering the city-wide speed limit from 30 mph to 25 mph. The City Administrator has referred such to the Committee for any relevant input on the concept.

*July 27, 2023:* The Committee expressed concern that lowering the speed limit in isolation would not be a solution in itself without such being accompanied by corresponding traffic calming measures and capacity for enforcement. They recommended that a consultant look specifically at Main Street in particular, where additional 4-way stops or other calming options would be best suited, where digital speed indicator signs would be best situated, and if any further stop-signs should be placed on roadways like Washington Avenue.

In all, the Committee is in support of the Council conducting a study and particularly believed that a speed reduction would be beneficial along Main Street.