



City of Beacon Parking and Traffic Safety Committee

Minutes

September 28, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

1 Municipal Plaza, Beacon, NY 12508

Lower-Level Classroom

➤ **Old Business**

1. Verplanck and Dutchess Terrace Crosswalk
2. Liberty Street and Angela Court Pedestrian Safety

➤ **New Business**

1. Intersections of Verplanck Ave. and Mattewan Rd & Main St and Route 52
2. Cliff St Parking
3. Sargent Ave Parking
4. Intersection of East Main St. & Spring St.
5. Wolcott School Zone (Added by resident attending)

Old Business

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.

September 28, 2023: Signage for this matter has been installed and crosswalks will be painted at a later date. This item will be removed from the agenda moving forward.

2. 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.

September 28, 2023: This agenda item will be put on hold until further correspondence from the Angela Ct HOA.

New Business

1. Intersections of Verplanck Ave. and Mattewan Rd & Main St. and Route 52

To the City Council: My wife and I frequently take walks throughout Beacon, often pushing a stroller. We've noticed several dangerous intersections, particularly Verplank Ave and Mattewan Rd, Main St and Route 52, and the crossing on Route 52 between Ron's Ice Cream and Memorial Park. I strongly urge the Traffic Safety Committee to assess or reassess these intersections, especially with Beacon's population boom the last few years.

However, of all these intersections, I believe 9D and Route 52 (also known as Wolcott and Teller which is on the border of Wards 2 and 4) pose the greatest risk! The presence of a crosswalk here is astonishing given the evident danger. The owners of the brick house on the corner of Teller have informed me that their property was damaged on two occasions due to cars speeding around the corner. This emphasizes the potential harm to pedestrians. Furthermore, the eastbound traffic on 9D, obscured by a bend and slope, is a serious concern. While the plans to take the bend away and replace it with a T turn is a good idea, I believe developing a sidewalk in front of 925 Wolcott Ave to move the crossing over to provide greater visibility and time for both drivers and pedestrians.



I initiated a petition the other day addressing this public safety issue and later discovered plans to overhaul Route 52 and this intersection. Even if the bid for the entire project is high, I strongly recommend proceeding with the construction, prioritizing 9D and Route 52. Alternatively, consider making it a standalone project to expedite its completion. People's safety should not be compromised because of the larger project's complexities. While a traffic light might be the ideal solution for safety, even an amber flashing light and a reflective pedestrian sign would significantly enhance caution for speeding vehicles.

To the Traffic Safety Committee (forwarding the above): I wanted to share with you the email I sent to the City Council several weeks ago to make sure you see it and that it gets put onto the public record and perhaps discussed in the upcoming meeting which I will try to attend! The bottom line is the intersection of route 52 and 9D needs an amber flashing light ideally with an electronic radar mph display as well.

September 28, 2023: The Committee discussed that the City is awaiting traffic study data for Verplanck Ave. and expecting to receive such in the near future. The Committee also discussed that the City is awaiting a re-scoped Fishkill/Teller Avenues rehabilitation project design in the coming weeks and expects to put said project out to bid in early 2024. Said project is expected to involve the intersection of 9D and Teller, as well as sidewalks along portions of the stretch of Fishkill/Teller Avenues.

At the next Committee meeting, members will discuss whether the traffic light at the intersection of Main St. and Teller Ave. can be reprogrammed to include lead-pedestrian intervals, or not.

2. Cliff St. Parking

The Committee was asked to evaluate the following proposed changes to Cliff Street Parking code, with consideration of wholistic improvements to the street.

- 1) **Eliminate** from the Beacon City Code, Chapter 211. Vehicles and Traffic, Article III. Parking, Standing and Stopping, Section 211-15B. Parking, stopping and standing prohibited at all times the two parts regarding Cliff St.
- 2) **Add** - Cliff St East From the driveway of premises at No. 8 Cliff Street to the intersection with Dewindt St.

Please see the excerpted code sections attached to the agenda which are inconsistent with signage currently on the street.

September 28, 2023: The Committee recommended that the Beacon City Council consider amending the City code as follows:

- Prohibiting parking along the West side of Cliff St. between Main and Commerce.
- Prohibiting parking along the East side of Cliff St. from 8 Cliff Street to Dewindt.

3. Parking on Sargent Ave.

A resident called to complain about the parking along Sargent Ave. during soccer games. They noted that cars are routinely parking to block mailboxes/paper delivery boxes. They suggested signage to park at the school instead.

September 28, 2023: The Committee noted that there is existing Police Dept. enforcement along the stretch in question on busy weekend days, but that residents who are dealing with parking which blocks mailboxes, etc. should contact the police for enforcement assistance. Further, the Committee noted that the Soccer Club would preferably increase messaging which encourages parking at the nearby school, rather than along the roadway itself.

4. Intersection of East Main St. & Spring St.

Please review this intersection to improve safety for children going to school, as well as for pedestrians more generally. The City has received several requests for assistance at this intersection regarding limited sight line distance while crossing East Main (for both drivers and pedestrians crossing).

What measures could be taken to improve the safety of such?

September 28, 2023: The Committee recommended that the Beacon City Council consider amending the City code to make the intersection of East Main/Washington/Spring St. into a three-way stop. This would involve adding stop signs on both East Main (as it approaches from the South/West) and Washington Ave. as they approach this intersection. The Committee also noted that there is an existing stop-sign at the intersection on East Main as it approaches from the East.

5. Wolcott School Zone (Added by resident attending)

A resident attended the September 28, 2023 meeting to report positive impacts on speed concerns from Police enforcement and speed signs located along Wolcott Ave. as drivers enter the City from the South. The resident inquired into the feasibility of increasing school zones in the area. The resident also noted concerns with bright street lighting in the same area and the spillover light from such into surrounding homes.

September 28, 2023: The Committee noted that the Police Dept. will continue presence in the area and that previous discussions had explored expanding school zones in the area in question. The concern with doing so is confusing drivers with where the zone(s) begin and end.

The Committee requested email follow-up to the administration regarding street light concerns.