



City of Beacon Parking and Traffic Safety Committee

Minutes

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

➤ **Old Business**

1. Intersections of Verplanck Ave. and Mattewan Rd & Main St and Route 52
2. Wolcott School Zone (Added by resident attending)

➤ **New Business**

1. Dennings Ave. Speed Limit
2. Round Tree Court Traffic and Parking Concerns
3. Dutchess County Traffic Count Data

Old 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 Verplanck 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.

October 26, 2023: The Committee noted that there seems to be a box at the stoplight in question, which may indicate that the light is programmable. The Committee will continue discussion on the topic at the next meeting with the Highway Superintendent present to verify if such is the case, and whether or not it could be used for Lead-Pedestrian Interval timing.

2. 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.

October 26, 2023: The Committee discussed whether anything could be done while leaving the City. For next meeting, research will be done wither regards to the boundaries of the existing school zones along the relevant stretch. The Committee noted concerns with a long confusing contiguous school zone, as well as with having two 15 mph school zones with a brief 30 mph area in between.

New Business

1. Dennings Avenue Speed Limit

The following was received by email:

I am reaching out to ask you for advice on how to go about getting the speed limit reduced here on Dennings Avenue where the trucks and cars approach the waste water treatment plants, the transfer station and the trail heads at the end of our street. We are a residential neighborhood without sidewalks, our street gets a LOT of traffic, and often the vehicles are going way too fast. We have beings of all ages living here, from small children to elderly folks and pets, (wild critters, too!) who use the street to cross or walk on, not to mention the public who walk down to enjoy the beautiful trails at Dennings Point. Dennings Avenue also has some curves in this

section, which make visibility an issue, not to mention creates a more dangerous situation if a large vehicle was speeding and lost control.

Currently there is a 15 mph sign posted at the 3 way intersection of Hudson Avenue and Dennings Avenue, and another speed sign of 25mph as you head up Dennings from the trail heads at the end of the street. Given the volume of traffic and the size of many of the vehicles traveling on this section of Dennings Avenue, I think 15 mph makes sense and it would help to have a sign letting people know that the street needs to be shared with pedestrians. With future plans to connect the existing trails to the Dia, and hopefully eventually connect Dennings Point to Cold Spring, pedestrian traffic here on this section of Dennings Point will only increase. I think it is important to address this safety issue now.

Thank you for your help.

October 26, 2023: The Committee review the area in question and determined that the 15-mph sign is cautionary, not mandatory, and that the legal speed limit for the area is 25 mph. The Committee also noted that the stretch is a commercial truck route and that there are existing stop signs on Dennings and Hudson already. The Police noted that there have not been complaints in awhile or ticketing for speeding in the area. The Department will increase rotations of offices in the area, nonetheless.

The Committee declined to recommend lowering the speed limit from 25 mph in the relevant area.

2. Round Tree Court Traffic and Parking Concerns

October 26, 2023: The Committee reviewed a memorandum which was received from the Round Tree Court HOA. In summary, the memorandum expressed concerns with parking and speeding throughout the neighborhood.

The Committee declined to recommend lowering the speed limit, but did recommend adding no-parking zones in several key spots, particularly around three bends. A map indicating the precise bounds of such will be provided via memorandum to the City Council for consideration. The representative of the HOA present at the meeting estimated that if such were adopted, approximately 6-8 street parking spots would be lost, but noted that the HOA has an underutilized parking lot within walking distance. The Fire Department had no concern with adding these zones and added that if the area of concern was a private road, no parking would be allowed upon the street at all.

Police will increase rotations of officers to the area in order to assist with speed mitigation.

The Committee noted that they are ok with portable/removable speed bumps throughout the neighborhood, but reserved such for the City Administrator's discretion. The Fire Department noted that adding the requested 3 speed bumps would add approximately 15 seconds each to

response time of emergency vehicles.

3. Dutchess County Traffic Count Data

October 26, 2023: This item was reserved for future discussion.