



City of Beacon

Parking and Traffic Safety Committee

Minutes

June 26, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

1 Municipal Plaza,

Beacon, NY 12508

➤ Old Business

1. Leonard St. Stop Sign
2. North Chestnut Street Intersection

➤ New Business

1. West Main Safety Concern
2. Beekman Street and Ferry Street Crossing
3. Liberty Street Speed Concerns
4. Verplanck Avenue Safety Concerns
5. Washington Avenue and Tillot Street
6. Parking on Tioronda Avenue
7. (ADDED) Washington Avenue Traffic Control
8. (ADDED) South Walnut Street and Main Street
9. (ADDED) Water Street One-Way

In attendance: Carolyn Bennet-Glauda; Lt. Confield; David Jensen; Chief Lucchesi; Highway Superintendent Michael Manzi

Old Business

1. Leonard St. Stop Sign

The following agenda item was submitted for discussion by the Beacon Police Department:

Visibility is extremely difficult when turning from Leonard St. onto East Main St. particularly when trying to see past Durkin's. The store, the parking lot and the grade mean that you really only see oncoming traffic at the last minute. I think that a stop sign for northbound traffic at the intersection of East Main St. and Leonard St. would probably alleviate this issue.

June 27, 2024: Due to timing, this item will trail to the July meeting.

July 25, 2024: The Committee supported a stop sign being placed in the area of concern, but noted concerns of considering where a future crosswalk may be placed. Placement must balance visibility of the sign itself with that consideration. A planner or engineer may be consulted for exact placement, and committee members will visit the area before the August meeting to evaluate further. Police Department will look into the accident history of the area, as well.

August 22, 2024: This item will trail to the September meeting.

September 26, 2024: This item will trail to the October meeting, but the Committee reiterated the concept of a stop sign to be added near the mailbox at Durkins. Highway and Police Department staff will visit the location again before progressing the conversation further.

December 12, 2024: The Police Department visited the intersection in question to review possible locations for a stop sign. In doing so, it was noted that delivery trucks obscure visibility further. The Committee reiterated the need for planning/engineer design support on this matter. This item will trail for further discussion to the January 2025 meeting.

January 23, 2025: The Committee continued discussion of a potential stop sign at the corner of Durkins nearby to the storm grate. The Committee noted that there is no good way to add a crosswalk without a more comprehensive redesign of the intersection.

Before the next meeting, the City will investigate whether parking at Durkins is legal, particularly at the ends. This item will trail for further discussion at the February 2025 meeting.

February 27, 2025: the Committee Secretary has reached out to the City's Building Department regarding possible illegal parking spots and is awaiting response.

The Committee also decided to draft a letter to the City Council regarding a potential more comprehensive redesign of the area. Core concerns included increasing traffic, nearby school

property, and new apartments. Committee Members will email the Committee Secretary with further thoughts to combine into a memo for the members' final approval.

April 24, 2025: This item will trail to the May meeting, pending Building Dept. input.

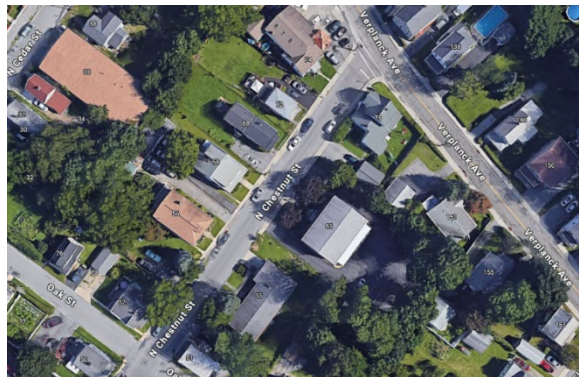
May 22, 2025: This item will trail to the June meeting, pending Building Dept. input.

June 26, 2025: This item will trail, pending Building Dept. input.

2. North Chestnut Street Intersection

The following email was received:

Hello, I would like to request the Parking and Traffic Safety Committee take a look at the intersection of Verplanck Ave and North Chestnut Street. It is a tough intersection to use both when exiting N Chestnut onto Verplanck and turning onto North Chestnut from Verplanck.



There's a 200ft section of N Chestnut from Verplanck that is significantly narrower than the rest of N. Chestnut. Considering this is not a one-way street, and the fact that cars are often parked on both sides of the street on this section, it makes turning onto and from this intersection very challenging. There's often not enough room for 4 cars to be using the road, due to cars parking on both sides of the road and cars entering or leaving N Chestnut from this intersection.

While there is a 'No Parking From Here to Corner' sign on N Chestnut facing Verplanck, that only prevents one car from parking near the intersection. If there's 2 cars waiting to turn left or right onto Verplanck, and a car from Verplanck trying to turn onto N Chestnut, there's not enough room if there's a car parked on either side of the street.

In addition, with the autobody shop on the left corner of N Chestnut Street, there are often cars parked on or very close to the sidewalk, which blocks the view from Verplanck to the west.

I ask that the Committee take a look at this intersection, and consider eliminating parking on one side of the street for this section where the road is narrower than the rest of the road.

This is a major street used to traverse Verplanck to Main Street, especially coming from the middle and high school, and one of only 3 streets along Main Street between Fishkill Ave and North Ave that allows for direct access from Verplanck to Main Street.

Secondly, I'd like to alert the Committee that the street sign at Knevels Ave and Tioronda Ave has been knocked over for more than 3 months. It looks like a construction truck from the Arno development backed into it. Can that please be fixed?

February 27, 2025: The Committee noted that this is a busy road and that the mechanic parking can block visibility approaching Verplanck Ave, where the road narrows. The Fire Department Chief noted that this is similar to many streets throughout the City that perhaps should not be 2-way. The Committee reiterated its desire for a more holistic review of Verplanck and adjacent roadways should be done. In the meantime, the Committee recommended extending the existing 'no parking' on the eastern side of N. Chestnut further south to the edge of the driveway for 72 N. Chestnut.

The Committee also requested that the Secretary contact the Building Department to see if there are issues with the parking at the mechanic obstructing intersection visibility. The Committee also requested clarification as to whether the driveway on the west side of North Chestnut abutting the mechanic is for the home or business.

Lastly, the Committee confirmed that the street sign at Knevels/Tioronda has been knocked over and referred both this and a bent stop sign at Main/E. Main to the Highway Department for remedy.

March 27, 2025: The Committee confirmed that the knocked over/bent signs have been fixed. The item will trail to the April meeting otherwise, pending Building Department feedback.

April 24, 2025: This item will trail to the May meeting, pending Building Dept. input.

May 22, 2025: the no-parking portion of this item will be going to City Council for consideration of amending the City code on 5/27/25. The portion item of the item relating to the automotive business will trail to the June meeting, pending Building Dept. input.

June 26, 2025: This item will trail, pending Building Dept. input.

New Business

1. West Main Safety Concerns

The following email was received:

I am writing to express my concerns about pedestrian safety around the Beacon Metro North train station. With Beacon's growing number of daily commuters and the influx of summer visitors who are unfamiliar with our streets, pedestrian safety has become an urgent issue.



Specific Safety Concerns

1. Beekman Street Crosswalk (Train Station to Sidewalk): The crosswalk connecting the train station sidewalk to Beekman Street poses significant safety risks:
 - The crosswalk markings are severely faded and nearly invisible during evening hours and inclement weather
 - Tree canopy coverage creates poor visibility, making it difficult for drivers to see pedestrians until they are already in the crosswalk
 - The combination of poor lighting, faded markings, and pedestrians in dark clothing creates dangerous conditions

Requested Solutions:

- Repaint the crosswalk with reflective paint for improved visibility
- Install enhanced lighting in the crossing area
- Consider adding illuminated pedestrian crossing signs (example: [LED Solar Pedestrian Crossing Sign - Save 10% Online](#))

2. Bank Street and W. Main Street Intersection: Increased traffic from Bank Street to the train station has created another hazardous area:

- The intersection lacks a designated crosswalk despite heavy pedestrian traffic
- Poor lighting makes it difficult to see pedestrians walking uphill from the train station
- While a stop sign exists, visibility remains severely limited until pedestrians are already in the roadway

Requested Solutions:

- Install a clearly marked crosswalk at the Bank Street and W. Main Street intersection
- Add street lighting along E. Main Street to Beekman Street to improve overall visibility

These improvements are essential for protecting both our daily commuters and the many visitors who contribute to Beacon's economy. I have attached aerial views of the areas in question for your reference.



I look forward to your response and to working together to enhance pedestrian safety in our community.

June 26, 2025: The Committee discussed request no. 1 and noted that the forthcoming Beekman St Pedestrian & Bicycle Improvements Project, which recently received funding

approval by the Dutchess County Transportation Council, will likely address these concerns. The City will provide the written concerns to the City Engineer for consideration during the design phase of said project.

Regarding request no. 2, the Highway Superintendent noted that the ADA ramps in the area are slated to be replaced as part of the annual group of ramps for 2025. He also noted that striping will be corrected after the annual ramps and paving are completed.

The Committee discussed and declined to recommend additional lighting to be installed at this time, noting that there is an existing streetlight at the intersection of West Main and Bank Street.

2. Beekman Street and Ferry Street Crossing

The following email was received:

I've made this I own before, but it's quite unsafe crossing Beekman Street heading to the train coming down from Ferry St. Today, I was almost hit by a car. There's crosswalk sign painted on the ground, but no signs for pedestrian safety, no blinking lights like on 9D, or anything to keep the numerous people who walk to the train safe. Much worse at night, but thankfully there's ample daylight now.

June 26, 2025: As with the preceding item, the Committee recommended referring this signage request into the upcoming design phase of the Beekman St Pedestrian & Bicycle Improvements Project.

3. Liberty Street Speed Concerns

The following email was received:

I am writing with concern about the amount of speeding on Liberty Street. I live on the corner of Liberty and Stone Street. Personally, I have almost been hit several times when walking my dog in our neighborhood. I have also witnessed plenty of dangerous situations that others have been in – kids included.

I think there are a few key issues working together here and I would like to speak with the Committee on how to best move forward in coming up with a solution to make Liberty Street and the surrounding neighborhood a safer place to exist:

- There are no regular speed limit signs on the entirety of Liberty Street. The only signs that exist are outside of the 2 x schools that list the school speed limit and "end school speed limit"
- There is a one lane bridge on Liberty that often causes confusion and it's quite tight so people and cars are often quite close to each other

- A lack of sidewalks leads to people (kids/families going to school, runners, walkers, etc.) having to be in the road
- People come from Glenham and "cut through" the neighborhood to get to Main Street, often at high rates of speed and lack of care for being in a neighborhood setting.

June 26, 2025: The concerned individual attended the meeting and clarified that the specific time of day is primarily during morning commuter hours, and when school lets out. The Committee will follow up and see if any signage is missing in the area.

4. Verplanck Avenue Safety Concerns

The following email was received:

I am a property owner on Verplank Avenue. Although, I have been living in Beacon since 2014. I was finally able to purchase my home in 2022. So I've been living at this location for a little over three years. I would like to report the need for an additional stop sign on Verplanck Ave.

For the past year and a half, I have been fortunate to have an employer allowing me to work from home. During this time, I have observed two serious accidents and countless near misses at the corner of Verplanck and Schenck Avenue.

Drivers regularly attempt to skip traffic on Main Street and consequently drive extremely fast down Verplanck in the section between Fishkill Ave and Main Street. At the same time, drivers on Schenck Avenue make the wrong assumption that the intersection is a 4 Way Stop. As a result, there are frequently accidents or near misses. The near misses result in horns blaring and drivers screaming at each other.

In addition, there are no crosswalks at this intersection. However, I frequently see people walking on the sidewalks and crossing the street here, including myself. It is only a matter of time before a pedestrian is also injured or possibly killed. For example, if a pedestrian had been standing at the Southeast corner of Schenck and Verplank in today's accident they would have been killed. See the attached photo. One of the drivers was taken away in an ambulance, regardless. This particular point is extremely concerning for me because I have a 5-year-old son living in my house next to this intersection.

I am requesting several things be done:

- First, there needs to be traffic enforcement on this section of the street, to ticket the speeding drivers. The last time there was an accident I requested this from a police officer. They told me in a fairly nasty tone, that everyone everywhere is flying by and that I needed to complain to you first. Now I am officially complaining. Please make sure that there is traffic enforcement on Verplanck between Fishkill Ave and Main Street.
- Second, please paint crosswalks at this intersection. People cross the intersection here several times an hour during daylight. I counted 2 pedestrians crossing Schenck in the

time it took me to write this email.

- Please conduct a traffic study here to determine the necessity of installing a four-way stop sign.
- I am fairly confident that upon completing the assessment, that a need for a stop sign will be determined, so please add one.

Thank you for taking the time to read this communication.

June 26, 2025: The Police Department will look at accident history for the area of concern. The Committee was hesitant to suggest adding a crosswalk at this particular intersection due to blind spots, and to rather encourage crossing at the nearby lighted intersection. The Committee also noted that a more holistic review of Verplanck would be more appropriate than an intersection-by-intersection analysis. This item will trail for further discussion at the next meeting.

5. Washington Avenue and Tillot Street

The following two emails were received:

Email 1: The undersigned, a group of Ward 3 residents living in the area of Washington Avenue and Tillott Street, are writing to request a traffic safety evaluation.

Drivers entering and leaving Beacon along the Washington Avenue corridor drive at speeds far exceeding the speed limit. Heavy trucks also use the corridor at very high speeds that are not appropriate for a residential area. Traffic is particularly lawless at night, with cars streaking by at highway speeds.

The corner of Washington and Tillott is home to a school bus stop, and elementary school-aged children cross Washington Avenue frequently to walk to and from JV Forrestal School.

We have witnessed 3 accidents at this intersection and have lost 2 pets to the traffic.

We live in Beacon because it is a livable, walkable, and family-friendly community. We appreciate your support in keeping it that way by protecting the safety of residents through enforcing the law.

Thank you for your consideration,

Email 2: To members of the Beacon Traffic Safety Committee:

Building on the concerns expressed in the letter above, I agree and stress that urgent action is needed to address the pressing safety issues on Washington Ave.

- Constant Hazard: Particularly concerning is that the most dangerous activity occurs on nights and weekends along Washington Ave, amplifying the risk during low visibility at night and when children are outside experiencing life on weekends when they are not in

school. Heavy trucks, cars, motorcyclists, and dirt bikes frequently use Washington Ave as an acceleration point, creating dangerous conditions for pedestrians, including at the exact moment I write this (6:34PM Sunday, June 2, 2024).

- **Fear for the Safety of Children, Those with Mobility Challenges, and Pets:** The intersection of Washington and Tillot is a crucial point for children's safety, serving as a school bus stop and a crossing point for elementary school-aged children walking to and from JV Forrestal School. In the vicinity between Tillot and Grove, approximately eight families, including those with school-aged and infant children, reside. As a parent myself, I share the deep concern about the safety of our children, especially given the high-speed traffic on Washington Ave. Additionally, a high number of pets reside at these homes including dogs that are being walked, and cats that explore the outdoors.
- **Property Damage:** Reckless drivers have caused significant damage to parked cars on Washington Ave, resulting in financial and time burdens for affected residents. One recent incident at 95 Washington Ave required the resident to spend \$2000 on replacing their side mirror after a hit-and-run, consuming multiple days and hours of their time in addition to the great financial burden and safety hazard of being without a side mirror while waiting for the repair (parts and scheduling).
- **Disrupted Peace:** The noise generated by speeding vehicles and cyclists on Washington Ave is so loud that it disrupts residents' peace to the extent of waking them up from sleep. This constant disturbance affects the tranquility of the neighborhood, significantly impacting residents' quality of life.
- **Lack of Enforcement:** Despite repeated complaints from residents, there's a noticeable lack of effective enforcement measures by local authorities to address the issue of speeding vehicles on Washington Ave.

Thank you for promptly addressing

June 26, 2025: The Committee noted that stop signs at Washington and Tillot are to be added in July based on previous recommendation made by the Committee to the City Council, which are likely to be adopted.

The Police Department will look at this area for further enforcement, as well.

6. Parking on Tioronda Avenue

The following email was received:

Can the Committee please review Tioronda between Main and Vine. Traffic is terrible on the weekends. Suggestion could be No Parking on the East side from our sign by the house and along the east side until Wolcott.

June 26, 2025: This item will trail to the July meeting.

7. (ADDED) Washington Avenue Traffic Control

A resident attended the meeting and raised concerns about speed along Washington Avenue requesting improvements to help mitigate such and noting that the speed sign near St. Joachim's and between Barb's Butcher and the City limits is hidden.

The Committee noted that DPW can put up additional signage, as needed, and that the moveable speed reader sign can be rotated to the area at some point (perhaps in a couple of months).

The resident requested a budget item to put in a permanent speed reader sign. The Committee noted that they had suggested a line in the annual budget to gradually work through priority areas for permanent speed reader signage.

8. (ADDED) South Walnut and Main Street

A committee member raised the concern of difficult turns from South Elm Street onto Main Street, citing concerns of visibility, the fact that South Elm is one way coming out of the County Parking lot, and congestion along both roads.

June 26, 2025: The Committee discussed possible changes to the one-way street to go away from Main or to hash out parking stalls on Main Street, but ultimately decided not to recommend any changes at this time.

9. (ADDED) Water Street One-Way

A committee member raised concerns regarding a missing stop sign at the intersection of Water Street and Spring Valley.

June 26, 2025: The Committee reviewed the code and noted that such incorrectly identifies Water Street as one-way heading north, towards East Main, rather than southward towards Spring Valley. The latter is how the arrangement is in actuality, and the committee member who raised the concern noted that there used to be a stop sign at the intersection, which is not currently there or in the code. The Committee will investigate the discrepancy further and discuss in July.

Next meeting: July 24, 2025