



City of Beacon

Parking and Traffic Safety Committee

Minutes

February 26, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.
1 Municipal Plaza,
Beacon, NY 12508

➤ **Old Business**

1. North Avenue/Verplanck Avenue Blind Driveway
2. Helen Court Stop Sign
3. Sargent Avenue Pedestrian Safety
4. Russell/East Main Street Parking

➤ **New Business**

5. Beekman Street Safety

In attendance: Committee Chair Matt Dubetsky, Chief Tom Luchessi, Highway Superintendent Michael Manzi, and Samuel Schmitz.

Old Business

1. North Avenue/Verplanck Avenue Blind Driveway

The following email was received:

My driveway is right before the light on 9D at the intersection of North Ave & Verplanck. We have lived in our house for about three years and have had some challenges with getting in and out of our driveway - we have had many close calls with people coming around the corner quickly when we are backing out of the driveway or having people use the middle lane as a passing lane during high traffic times, creating an unsafe situation where we cannot see them as we back out of the driveway. This was especially a problem during the summer, with a lot of motorcycles and dirtbikes using the middle turning lane as a passing lane when traffic was backed up at the light. I was wondering what the steps are to acquiring a blind driveway sign for our driveway to help keep drivers alert to cars coming in and out of our driveway moving forward.

January 22, 2026: The Committee requested to get the specific address in question. The Committee expressed skepticism that a 'blind driveway' sign would be effective at addressing the concern and don't recommend such. This item will trail for further discussion.

February 26, 2026: The Committee reviewed the specific address for the concerned resident and confirmed that a sign would likely be ineffective at addressing the complaint. They recommended enforcement for speed issues along the area of impact, as well as for illegal middle-lane passing. The Committee also noted that the concerns are not unique to this particular property, as it is located on an extremely heavily trafficked area of the City. This item will be removed from the agenda going forward.

2. Helen Court Stop Sign

The following email was received:

The 29 families of Helen Ct are hereby requesting installation of STOP signs at the intersection of Helen Ct & Washington Ave.

Several years ago we requested and were granted a HIDDEN DRIVE sign on the approach heading east to Helen Ct but that has not resolved the hazardous situation.

As residents leave Helen Ct. there is limited sight distance of about 100 feet for residents to see cars approaching east on Washington Ave at speeds well over the speed limit. Even cars obeying the speed limit hit the intersection quickly and leave little time to avoid possible accidents! There have been numerous occasions where accidents were narrowly avoided. Within the few months there was a very serious accident across from Helen Ct where a car

crashed through two properties destroying fences finally crashing directly into a neighboring home!

We intend to come to the next Traffic Safety meeting at City Hall to formally address this matter. As the meetings are held on the 4th Thursday of each month, Thanksgiving and Christmas fall on those days in November and December so the next possible meeting will be on Thursday January 22, 2026. In the interim we would ask that this email be distributed to the committee members for possible input.

Thank you.

Glendale Estates Homeowners Association

January 22, 2026: Members of the public attended to discuss this concern and noted that years ago they received a 'hidden drive' sign which they feel has been ineffective at improving the intersection. They have remaining concerns about visibility when pulling out of the Glendale Estates properties on to Washington. They further noted that there have been accidents in the area and that there is school pickup and children wait on the corner of the intersection for the bus.

They requested a flashing light like at Red Schoolhouse and Cherrywood. They also requested 'no parking from here to corner' signage further away from the intersection.

The Committee discussed increasing police presence and enforcement in the area and the Department will review accident history for further discussion.

February 26, 2026: Members of the public attended to discuss the concern and reiterated their concerns and requests. They added that piles of snow and tall grass make visibility obstructed during different seasons of the year. They reiterated concerns about a recent accident in the area, speeding drivers, wanting more pedestrian safety opportunities, wanting more traffic calming measures in the general area and particularly nearby to Helen Court and the cemetery on Washington Avenue, and requesting a stop sign at Liberty Street.

The Committee discussed that more speed signs will be added on Washington Avenue and that a permanent speed reader sign will be added later in the spring. This item will trail for further discussion.

3. Sargent Avenue Pedestrian Safety

I am a parent of 3 boys that attend Sargent Elementary. We live on Sargent Avenue and so walk to school. Over the last 4 years of attending the school we have been navigating the speeding traffic (including busses and after school club minivans). We frequently find ourselves at risk and nervous of these speeding vehicles and although I have reported this many times to the principal, nothing has been done to reduce the risk to the children walking to school. I simply

don't understand how it is possible that there is no sidewalk, radar or even speed bumps in place at an elementary school.

January 22, 2026: This item will trail to the next meeting for discussion.

February 26, 2026: The Committee discussed that the issue and reiterated that the school has expressed the preferred crossing for students is across the lighted crosswalk on Wolcott/9D. They also noted that the grassy area alongside the school property on Sargent Avenue is too narrow for a sidewalk to be added, and that it is on school property.

The Committee noted that based on conversations and experience with crossing guards, there is a very limited number of students that cross Wolcott and Sargent.

The Committee concluded that there is not much that can be done short of the school developing some sort of internal walkway along and throughout their property, which could have additional access points along Sargent Avenue added. They also noted that the City Council will be reviewing a City sidewalk inventory later in this year to approach gaps and repairs more holistically. This item will be removed from the agenda going forward.

4. Russell/East Main Street Parking

The following email was received:

Russell and parking: On the end of Russell it's very hard to drive up the street because parking is aloud almost to the corner. It should be taken away because it's a single lane street with the parking. It often makes it hard to pull in and people have to wait for each other. It would be an easy fix. Remove parking like 20ft from corner.

January 22, 2026: This item will trail to the next meeting for discussion.

February 26, 2026: The Committee discussed and confirmed that the intersection with East Main Street is narrow. They requested a check of the code to see if the no-parking area has been changed to extend to the driveway.

New Business

5. Beekman Street Safety

A resident called and offered the following suggestions for safety improvements along Beekman Street, particularly at the primary entrance to the MTA station parking lot and to Red Flynn Drive:

- Add speed bumps to the entrance or nearby to the MTA station to counteract reckless

and speeding drivers during peak train traffic hours.

- Add a stop sign on Red Flynn Drive when you are turning onto Beekman Street. The MTA lot has a stop sign, but Red Flynn is just a yield sign.
- Please review the accident history along Beekman Street at these intersections for the past few years to see if other measures are warranted.

February 26, 2026: The Committee discussed and recommended speed enforcement as a way of generally addressing the speed concerns along Beekman Street. They also noted that the stop-sign at the entrance to the train station is owned by the MTA and was likely installed at their own determination. Speed bumps in or out of their parking lot would also need to be something done by MTA.

City Staff informed the committee that there is an upcoming Beekman Street Rehabilitation project which would run from Red Flynn to 9D/Main Street. This project will include significant pedestrian, bike, and roadway quality enhancements and will likely be under construction in 2027-28. The City also will explore wayfinding signage as part of that project, and in the meantime.

Lastly, the Committee noted that the street parking at the Ferry Street crossing was recently reconfigured to aid in pedestrian safety. This item will be removed from the agenda going forward.

Next meeting: *March 26, 2026*