

Town of Clifton Park
Highway Safety Committee
One Town Hall Plaza | Clifton Park, New York 12065 | (518) 371-6054 | FAX: (518) 371-1136

March 27, 2025 - Meeting held in the Wood Room of Town Hall

Minutes

1. Introduction

a. Attendance

Present

Dave Woodin
Dahn Bull
Jim Allen

John Scavo
MD Haque
Al Karoly (via video)

Tony George
Eric Ophardt

Absent

Tom Werner
Phil Clark

Bob O'Connell
Jeff Labarge

Lenny Casper

- b. Minutes: The minutes for February were accepted as drafted. Motion by Woodin, 2nd by George.

2. Old Business

a. NYSDOT's Safety Improvement Projects for NY 146 and US 9

- Scavo reported that the contract has been awarded, but nothing new on the project.

b. CAPTAIN Senior Services Committee - Senior Transportation Options for Seniors Study

- O'Connell was absent so there was no report on this item.

c. The Capital Region [Vision Zero Safety Action Plan](#)

- Scavo gave a demonstration on Power VI, which is like Excel on steroids. He provided an example of it analyzing five years of crash data. This application has not been officially released to the public, but an August roll-out is expected.

d. Concerns at Pierce Rd. & Usher Rd. Intersection

- No new information to discuss as Casper was not in attendance.

e. Citizen Concern - NY 146 & Bruno Rd.

- Waiting to hear the results of a NYSDOT Region 1 traffic study for the intersection. It is not expected until June.

f. Okte Speed Limit Beacons

- Bull reported that a new timer was installed and electrical wires needed replacement due to mice chewing on them. The westbound beacon is flashing again, but Woodin noted that it is flashing later than 6 PM. Bull will have it looked at again.

3. New Business

a. ADA Transition Plan Update

- The meeting began with a special presentation from John Scavo and Carrie Ward (CRTC) regarding the Clifton Park Transition Plan. Clifton Park is in good shape as most of its sidewalks meet ADA standards. However, an inventory indicated that a five-year plan could be created at a cost of \$905K. If the Town replaced 0.1 miles of sidewalk each year, it would result in a \$180K/year outlay. Typical construction costs revealed that a 5 ft wide, 4 inch thick sidewalk costs \$75/LF; ADA curb ramps are \$6300 each and a crosswalk is \$1400. Public

comments on the plan close on April 1st with the Town Board expected to adopt the plan in April.

- b. Citizen Concern - Request for a crosswalk at the intersection of Moe Road and Par Del Rio.
 - The consensus was that this intersection should be treated similar to the Barney Road crossing (crosswalk with RRFBs). It will be added to the ADA list for a future installation.
- c. Citizen Concern - Request for a 3-way stop at the intersection of Brighton Drive and Kendra Drive.
 - Woodin stated that he drove through this development and found the sight distances to be more than adequate. The purpose of a stop sign is to assign the right of way, not speed control. A common myth is that an all-way stop will slow traffic down. It will within 100 feet of the intersection, but then motorists speed up once through the intersection, often at a higher speed to make up for lost time. The need for a stop sign is not apparent at this time. The recommendation is not to grant the request.
- d. Request to take another look at restricting parking along Westchester Drive
 - The discussion indicated that despite limiting parking on the street, the problem persists and the recommendation was to ban parking on the inside of the loop.
- e. 25 MPH Speed Limit
 - At the February meeting, an agenda item indicated that the Committee did not support the idea of implementing a lower (25 MPH) speed limit in the developments. Bull reported that he looked into the potential cost if Clifton Park decided to follow the lead of Albany, Schenectady and other municipalities and lower their speed limits. By applying a sticker with 25 on it to cover the 30, the Town would need to update 233 signs at a cost of about \$6 per sticker. This would result in a cost of \$1500 for material costs. Labor costs would be several thousand dollars.
- f. CP & HM Planning Board Actions
 - Ophardt reported that at the March Clifton Park Planning Board Meeting, a board member made a suggestion to the consultant for an exclusive right out turn lane in front of the new gas station at 1019 Route 146. NYS DOT Region 1 Traffic & Safety denied this request from the consultant.
 - The sight distance issue for a duplex on Clifton Park Center Road discussed last month was resolved.
 - Werner was not in attendance so there was no update regarding Halfmoon projects.
- g. CRTS Updates – Draft Comments on “In Motion Plan Vision Statement, Goals, and Objectives”
 - Scavo made a few suggestions regarding draft comments .
- h. Clifton Park Center Road – Speed Limit Inquiry
 - Ophardt had a request from Lou Pasquarell, TOCP Safety Director to look into the possibility of reducing the speed limit on Clifton Park Center Road between Moe and Vischer Ferry Road as State Police patrols recently ticketed a number of vehicles speeding through the 30 MPH school zone at the south end of the Shen Campus. There is no history of an accident problem in the area and the Highway Department will put a speed trailer out there to collect speed data. There was discussion of whether a speed reduction would lower the operating speeds in the area of the school. Typically, if the operating speed decreases due to a speed limit reduction, it is less than 1 MPH for every 1 MPH decrease in speed limit. For example, a 5 MPH decrease in the speed limit may result in a decrease of 2 to 3 MPH in operating speed.

Adjournment at 7:55 PM

Next Meeting – April 24, 2025 @ 6:00 PM