

Beacon Falls Board of Selectmen
10 Maple Avenue
Beacon Falls, CT 06403



BEACON FALLS BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Monthly Meeting
October 26, 2016
MINUTES
(Subject to Revision)

1. Call to Order/Pledge to the Flag

First Selectman Chris Bielik called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M.

Members Present: First Selectman Chris Bielik, Selectman Peter Betkoski (arrived at 7:43 PM), and Selectman Mike Krenesky

Others present: Sue Dowdell, Library Director; Lt. Eddie Rodriguez; Mary Ellen Fernandes, Parks & Rec.; and 2 members of the public.

2. Comments from the Public

C. Bielik asked three times and there were no comments from the public at this time.

3. Discussion on Local Traffic Authority Issues/Possible Action

a. Through Truck Traffic at Pond Springs Village

C. Bielik noted that GPS mapping directs traffic to Lancaster Drive by going through Pond Springs Village and there was a request to the Board of Selectmen to have this issue resolved. A suggestion was to have more pronounced signage in town directing traffic away from Pond Springs Village.

Carol Sullivan, September Lane, indicated that a resident of Pond Springs Village investigated the situation and found that if a photo of the truck and have proper signage, then fines could be imposed to the driver. Lt. Eddie Rodriguez agreed that proper signage would help the situation.

Lt. Rodriguez also indicated that the fines and fees could be imposed once the signs are posted. M. Krenesky noted that it does seem more of a problem from the southbound traffic and Lt. Rodriguez agreed. M. Krenesky also noted that trucks with business in Pond Springs Village cannot be stopped so the signage needs to be specific. M. Krenesky mentioned that both industrial parks – Murtha and Lancaster – needs to be stated on the signs. M. Fernandes suggested a sign that simply states “Truck Access”.

Lt. Rodriguez noted that the town could follow the State of CT regulated sign fees or a town ordinance stated the fees could be adopted. Lt. Rodriguez recommended to follow the State’s fees.

After a brief discussion on the verbiage of the signs and the placement of the signs, C. Bielik summarized by noting that the plan is to have a sign at the end of the exit ramp, in the median, an advisory sign to the Murtha and Lancaster Industrial Parks pointing the truck traffic with arrows. At the intersection of the Depot Street Bridge, another sign pointing to the Murtha Industrial Park going over the bridge and Lancaster Industrial Park straight ahead. C. Bielik also noted that the signs cannot restrict all truck traffic since residents do have some trucks with business in Pond Springs Village. Lt. Rodriguez will inform the State as to the town’s plan on posting signs and imposing fines on the trucks going through Pond Springs Village.

C. Bielik indicated that he would like to wait for P. Betkoski for the rest of tonight’s meeting and indicated that he would entertain a motion to go into recess.

Motion to enter into recess at 7:29 PM for 10 minutes or until Selectman Betkoski arrives for tonight’s special meeting: **Krenesky/Bielik;no discussion;all ayes.**

C. Bielik indicated that the Board of Selectmen’s special meeting is out of recess at 7:43 PM based on the arrival of P. Betkoski.

b. Petition to Reinstate the “Traffic Circle” at the Intersection of Highland Avenue and South Circle

C. Bielik indicated that a petition was received regarding the “traffic circle on Highland Avenue/South Circle and he went to the Engineer to discuss the issue. Jim Galligan, of Nafis & Young, responded with a letter dated 10/26/2016 that indicated that three stop sign would be the suggested solution to the removal of the island. The letter states that the intersection was oversized causing excess manpower and time for snow removal. The traffic volume does not warrant a physical barrier separation of the traffic.

The plans for the reconstruction of Highland Avenue show that the island to be removed from the intersection. C. Bielik noted that it could be a potential problem for the town since the plans indicated that the island was to be removed and then it is put back into the intersection.

M. Krenesky indicated that he researched the original design of the hill. M. Krenesky noted that the island was not in the original plans of the roads and was later installed. A horse trough was in the center of the island and may have been the reason for the installation of island. M. Krenesky also noted that the intersection has been realigned based on the removal of the island and could be a challenge in putting it back into the intersection.

Lt. Rodriguez mentioned a safety concern by having the island put back into the intersection and agrees with J. Galligan. Lt. Rodriguez noted that there could be an issue based on the Engineer's recommendation not to have the island put into the intersection and then it is put back in.

After a brief discussion, Sue Dowdell, 32 Wolfe Avenue, indicated that she signed the petition but agrees that the stop signs would slow down traffic better than the circle does. Mary Ellen Fernandes, South Circle, mentioned that the letter from J. Galligan does not state that it is a safety concern by having the island in the intersection. M. Fernandes also mentioned that there have been no accidents as well as not having the island changes the entire atmosphere of the neighborhood. Marion Zollo, 126 Highland Avenue, indicated that the island directs traffic because people use it as a turn-around.

After further discussion, M. Krenesky noted a concern of emergency vehicles getting through the intersection with the narrowing of the redesign of the road. C. Bielik indicated that he will check with J. Galligan on the issue of emergency vehicles.

c. Through Truck Traffic on West Road

C. Bielik indicated that this issue was brought to the Board's attention from both Selectman Temple of Oxford. C. Bielik noted that the issue is similar to the through truck traffic on Rimmon Hill Road. After an agreement between Beacon Falls and Seymour, the appropriate signs were posted that no through truck traffic is allowed on Rimmon Hill Road. C. Bielik also noted that the same agreement will need to be made with Oxford for West Road.

Lt. Rodriguez indicated that trucks cannot be ticketed for traveling on the road if no signs are posted on West Road and they are traveling to Rimmon Hill Road.

Motion to make West Road a no through truck road and to empower C. Bielik to craft the agreement with the Town of Oxford:
Krenesky/Betkoski;no discussion;all ayes.

d. Right Hand Turns from Main Street onto Burton Road

C. Bielik noted that this is an issue that was brought to his attention from M. Krenesky. M Krenesky indicated that the lanes on Main Street are not clearly marked for vehicles turning onto Burton Road. M. Krenesky noted the breakdown area, the right-hand lane to turn right onto Burton Road, and the left-hand lane to go straight down Main Street. M. Krenesky indicated that vehicles are using the breakdown area as a right-hand turn lane to turn onto Burton Road.

After a brief discussion, M. Krenesky made a motion to have appropriate signage at the intersection of turning right from Main Street onto Burton Road.

Motion to post appropriate signage at the intersection of turning right from Main Street onto Burton Road to clearly mark the left lane as going straight; the right lane as going straight and turning right onto Burton Road; and hashtag the breakdown area: **Krenesky/Betkoski;** discussion was regarding the issues of traffic going across Depot Street Bridge, making a U-turn, not putting signs in the intersection, and only marking the breakdown lane; **M. Krenesky withdrew the motion.**

Motion to paint a hashtag in the breakdown area at the intersection of turning right from Main Street onto Burton Road: **Krenesky/Betkoski;no discussion;all ayes.**

4. Finalize and Approve Charge for Community Media Center Building Committee

C. Bielik indicated that a sample charge was provided by the Library Director and the Selectmen reviewed the sample. After a brief discussion, C. Bielik indicated that the Selectmen will defer action for 2 weeks until the next regular Board of Selectmen meeting.

5. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss at tonight's special meeting, C. Bielik asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion to adjourn tonight's Board of Selectmen special meeting at 8:58 P.M.:
Betkoski/Krenesky; no discussion; all ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Marla Scirpo
Clerk, Board of Selectmen

DRAFT