

Columbia County Traffic Safety Board Report

The Columbia County Traffic Safety Board met at the Public Safety Building in Hudson on Thursday, September 22, 2022.

Election of Officers was held. Henry Swartz was elected to serve as Chair (replacing Fred Schultz). John Leach was elected to fill Henry's Vice Chair seat, and yours truly was re-elected to the position of Recording Secretary for the eighteenth year!

The Columbia County Highway Department provided the following updates:

- Work on CR 15 in Taghkanic and on CR 8 in Livingston/Gallatin is nearing completion.
- County is working with Colarusso to coordinate reconstruction projects on CR 5 (Canaan) and CR 7 (Gallatin).
- Woodward Bridge reconstruction (CR 7, Gallatin) opened in early September; final punch list items to be completed in October.
- RFPs requested for replacement of Stuyvesant Falls Bridge (Stuyvesant) and Stall Bridge (Clermont).
- CR 18 (Fish & Game Road) Claverack: Temporary closure for culvert replacement near Tishauer Road intersection. Lane closures during winter months for tree work; full closure for complete rehab during 2023 construction season.
- 3 new speed limit requests received at County: Main Street (New Lebanon); Extension Road (New Lebanon); and Orphan Road (Copake)

I informed the Traffic Safety Board that they would soon see a request from Taghkanic for speed limit reduction on County Route 11 between Berkshire Road and the Taghkanic town line.

Columbia County Resident Engineer Mike Duval has retired. Assistant Resident Engineer Harry Heath will serve in an acting capacity until a new RE is appointed.

New laws (A8599 and S2021) allow local governments in New York to reduce speed limits to 25 mph in towns with populations of more than 50,000 residents. Obviously, Taghkanic does not meet this requirement.

Livingston Fire District Chief Paul (Joey) Jahns presented information regarding accidents at the four-leg intersection of Routes 9/9H/82/23 (Bells Pond) along with a letter to Livingston Town Supervisor James Guzzi outlining the issues at that intersection. This issue will be the focus of the CCTSB's November 17 meeting and we will ask NYSDOT to attend.

Also at the November 17 meeting, the CCTSB will honor outgoing Chairman Fred Schultz for his many years of service to the Board. Fred submitted his letter of resignation in July.

The meeting calendar for 2023 was set as follows: January 26, March 23, May 25, July 27, September 28 and November 16.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Swartz, Town of Taghkanic CCTSB Representative
and CCTSB Recording Secretary