

## Columbia County Traffic Safety Board Report

The Columbia County Traffic Safety Board met at the Public Safety Building in Hudson on Thursday, January 26, 2023.

Chairman Henry Swartz presented outgoing Chairman Fred Schultz with Certificates of Recognition from the County Board of Supervisors and from the Traffic Safety Board. The TSB welcomed the new Executive Secretary, John Gallo as well as the new NYSDOT Resident Engineer Tina Crowley, and Sgt. Wayne Oles from the NY State Police who is replacing Sgt. Paul Strobel.

### **Columbia County Highway Department Updates:**

The County Highway Department advises that construction is expected to begin on CR 18 (Fish & Game Road) in Claverack this Spring. There is also a multi-bridge repair contract for a number of bridges throughout the county.

### **Bells Pond Intersection, Livingston:**

Lee Zimmer and Moe Islam from the NYSDOT Traffic Engineering and Safety Unit in Poughkeepsie were in attendance to answer questions and discuss solutions regarding the Bells Pond intersection in Livingston. Four state highways converge at this wide intersection, all having a 55 mph speed limit. County DPW Commissioner Ray Jurkowski and Livingston Supervisor Jim Guzzi and Deputy Supervisor Will Yandik were also present.

Livingston Fire Chief Joey Jahns cited a number of accidents going back to 2018, the outdated traffic signal system, and the recent and expected additional development at the intersection, with the resultant increase in traffic. Livingston Supervisor Jim Guzzi noted that this intersection is in the C-1 (commercial) zoning district of Livingston and they would like to see a lower speed limit at the intersection. Mr. Zimmer said that without continuous enforcement, a lower speed is not recommended.

Mr. Zimmer said that DOT has studied the data and is planning to install a “full protect” green and yellow arrow signal and might consider adding the red arrow as well. They will also look at the directional signs and the alignment of the traffic signal.

Mr. Zimmer said that if DOT crews can do the work, it could be done in a few weeks. If it has to go to a contractor, it will take more time. If the new signals don’t take care of the problems, DOT will look for some other solution. Town of Livingston and TSB will keep DOT informed.

The next meeting of the Columbia County Traffic Safety Board is scheduled for March 23, 2023.

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