

Sent: Monday, August 14, 2023 4:14 PM
To: Steven Borne <civicnews@ryecivicleague.org>
Subject: Speed Limits

We live at 189 Sagamore Road on the west side of the road and are able to witness the speed of vehicles as they pass our home. The speed limit is 30 mph due to the number of residential driveways on this section of Sagamore Road and the lack of a paved shoulder. We estimate the the average speed is significantly above 40 mph due to the fact that cars heading south on Sagamore Road have two small hills to climb. They speed up to get over the first hill and then speed up a second time to summit the second hill. At the top of the second hill the vehicles come into view from our driveway. This creates a dangerous situation if we have just started to back into the the road.

We appreciate the work of the Rye Police to control speed on Sagamore Rd. However, we feel that a radar speed sign on the west side of Sagamore Rd at the base of the second hill will provide a meaningful warning and help slow the traffic when the police are not patrolling the road.

Thanks in advance to the group working on the on this issue,

Tom and Kathy Bonaccorsi
189 Sagamore Road
Rye, NH 03870

Hello Alex,

Mary and I will not be able to attend the session this Wednesday to discuss speeding within the town as we will be out of town.

We have both contributed our opinions on this subject at town committee meetings over the past few years. We both take this matter very seriously as we experience this topic every day living in the town center. Something bad is going to happen. Anyone walking along Washington Rd through town center will very quickly find out how dangerous it is, how exposed you feel, how it feels like you're walking along a highway thinking someday there will be a tragic event on this road that could have been avoided. Maybe everyone wants the town center to be a fat spot on a state highway? I would think not when the town charrette clearly stated otherwise. People are driving way too fast, too close to the white lines, and we can't even count how many times we've been given nasty looks just trying to pull out from our driveway due to the overall mean and determined attitudes of drivers zooming past, typically driving as if they are late for something, distracted and thoroughly annoyed at having to slow down or even worse, to stop as we pull out or a pedestrian crosses.

Of particular concern, is that the center is filled with school children twice a day during the school year. Knowing how dangerous it is we can't believe this hasn't been addressed as a priority to the town. We often have to cross the street to get to the library with our grandchildren. Due to the lack of cross walks, we must walk along the side of the road roughly 50 yards or so to get to the nearest one. It is scary! It feels like the lives of our grandchildren

are very much in danger and that we're being slightly irresponsible walking with them to the library! Doesn't that sound crazy? Try it sometime. To try and cross at Old Parish Road is nearly impossible even as an adult. Nobody will ever stop for pedestrians that are not at one of the few cross walks, even with baby carriage and child in hand. The drivers, as explained already, seem to all be entitled, determined to get somewhere fast. I recently arrived home with a trailer in tow, usually backing it into our driveway is no problem at all on a weekend evening, however this was the middle of the afternoon on a weekday and it was impossible due to the amount of traffic and the attitudes of the drivers. As I started backing in a car actually went around my front end. Cars coming in both directions were so upset and urgently trying to get somewhere that they came in too tight on both sides of me, not allowing me to turn properly, it was completely outrageous! I could see how upset the drivers were because they had been slowed down and made to stop for maybe 30 seconds. It was insanity, complete chaos. I had to give up.

Shall we talk about the Lang Road intersection? A few weekends ago I went for a walk, heading North against traffic past the Safety Center. As I was approaching Lang Road to cross at the cross walk, a driver was approaching Washington Rd. in the right-hand lane to take a right on Washington. They were looking only North to see if there was any traffic coming south on Washington. I could see they weren't even looking in my direction at all! I stopped and held back because I could see they didn't appear to be planning to stop at the stop sign because no one was coming south on Washington. I was 100% correct in holding back. The driver never once looked my way and never stopped at the stop sign. They would have easily run me over if I had not been the responsible party and stopped to let the car pass.... at a cross walk I'd like to remind you.

I could go on and say a lot more on the subject. As part of the town center committee, I am well aware of the improvements that are coming with the TAP grant and matching funds approved by town vote to improve and address the dangerous situation in our town center, however these changes will not be completed for some time. There must be changes now. This situation with speeding cars in town center must be addressed even if temporary until the TAP grant changes are implemented. Something bad is going to happen.

There must be changes that could take place now, implemented by our own Public Works department.

We would suggest:

1. White raised pavement markers along both white lines from Grange Park to the library. It was done at the end of Dow Lane, it could easily be done here.
2. Speed limit signs lowering the speed to 25mph through the center. Try it sometime. It feels safe. And it is a very short distance from Grange Park to the monument intersection.
3. Temporary rubberized speed bumps that could be removed for winter plowing. Check out the speed bumps along Maplewood Ave. in Portsmouth.
4. Added Cross Walks and pedestrian center line signs.

5. Make Lang Road a 3-way stop.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Again, our apologies for not being able to make the meeting. This is a serious topic.

Regards,
John & Mary Mitchell
562 Washington Rd.
Rye, NH 03870

From: **Patty Smith** <
Date: Mon, Aug 14, 2023 at 4:11 PM
Subject: Speeding in Rye Comments
To: <civicnews@ryecivicleauge.org>

Hello, thank you for bringing this topic to a discussion, I think that is great and hope it helps.

I live on Pine Street and often see folks speeding on our street, as well as on Cable Road. Generally I'd say that everyone (not just in Rye) has developed a disregard for speeding laws, as well as stop signs. It appears that the speed limit and a stop sign are just suggestions....

But, my input is that I think it would be beneficial to have some portable speed bumps, similar to what is in the entrance of the Rye Transfer Station. I've seen these in Portsmouth and they are very effective. This type of speed bump can be removed in the winter when the amount of traffic has reduced from what we typically see during tourist season, and also for the snowplows.

Another suggestion is to procure a speeding camera set up which can also be relocated around town. I know these are popular in Europe and am not certain why we don't have them in the US. Even if this type of speeding "ticket" does not hold up in court, it creates enough of a hassle that maybe it would eventually encourage folks to return to being respectful of the rules of the road.

Last suggestion, make it known to the residents of Rye that the Rye Police are able to take action on driving infringements which are captured on a dash cam. I wonder how many folks realize that they have the information to share and could be actionable. A bit of advertising may help with that.

Thank you.
Patricia Smith
Pine Street
Rye NH

- Steven Borne;
- Kevin Walsh <KWalsh@town.rye.nh.us>

Wed 8/16/2023 11:29 AM

Hi, I cannot make it this evening, but I'd like to say 'no' to the poll for more than 30 mph limits in Rye.

I personally would like to see what we can do about 1A during the peak season, and how to address that. I feel max limits wouldn't help the problems on that road. Most of the daylight hours you can't go more than 25-30 mph because it's so crowded with beach walkers, surfers carrying boards, parking on 1A going on from 8-10 am, cyclists, runners. At night though, a police car could really do well silently parked on 1A. You can hear motorcycles racing down 1A to the point it sounds like they're pushing 80 mph with no street lights and possibly killing people that might be out walking dogs or running at night.

If that above is another topic, maybe you can have a night to address that and the people who live on 1A can tell you how dangerous it can be. I also understand that is the State's road, so maybe they can attend as well or our Selectmen and women can ask for their help in solving the problem. I do believe all this parking on 1A now, on both sides from Jenness Beach to Harbor Rd is because Hampton is \$40-60 a day to park if you can't get their meters, and Portsmouth has no free parking either, so they're all coming to Rye to park for free.

Thank you for your time.

Ann Hoyt