

OFFICE OF THE
FIRST SELECTMAN

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Lynne A. Vanderslice
First Selectwoman

Joshua S. Cole
Second Selectman

Kimberley Healy
Selectwoman

Basam Nabulsi
Selectman

Ross H. Tartell
Selectman

TOWN HALL
238 Danbury Road
Wilton, CT 06897

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
Tuesday August 16, 2022
Held Electronically

PRESENT: First Selectwoman Lynne Vanderslice, Joshua Cole, Kimberley Healy, Basam Nabulsi, Ross Tartell

GUESTS: Police Chief John Lynch

A. Call to Order

Ms. Vanderslice called the meeting to order at 7:58pm.

B. Public Comment

Jon Nessel of Cora Lane indicated he is in attendance to hear information on the Sugar Hollow/Own Home Traffic Study.

C. Consent Agenda

Motion made by Mr. Cole seconded by Mr. Tartell and carried 5-0 to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- Minutes
 - Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting – August 2, 2022

D. Discussion and/or Action

Ms. Vanderslice asked for a motion to reverse the order of item #1 and item #2, making Possible Appointment of Town Administrator and Authorization of Employment Agreement first on the agenda. Motion moved by Mr. Tartell, seconded by Cole and carried 5-0.

1. Possible Appointment of Town Administrator and Authorization of Employment Agreement

Ms. Vanderslice requested a motion to appoint a Town Administrator candidate effective September 7, 2022 and authorize the First Selectwoman to execute a contract with that individual. Ms. Healy made the motion, seconded by Mr. Cole to appoint Matthew Knickerbocker as Town Administrator and have the First Selectwoman execute the contract. Comments on the motion, with Ms. Vanderslice sharing the selection process and each member commenting favorably on Mr. Knickerbocker's qualifications. Motion carried 5-0.

2. Sugar Hollow/Own Home Traffic Study – Chief John Lynch

Ms. Vanderslice noted at the request of residents, Lt. Hartmann prepared the attached Sugar Hollow/Own Home Traffic Study. The study was presented to the Police

Commission on August 10th. Chief John Lynch further reviewed the Study and updated the board on findings and recommendations.

Jon Nessel of Cora Lane was allowed to comment. His questions were addressed by Chief Lynch and Ms. Vanderslice.

3. Possible Reduction to the First Selectwoman's Salary

Mr. Vanderslice noted the FY2023 Board of Selectmen approved budget included a reduction in the First Selectwoman's salary to just over \$120,000 effective with the hiring of a Town Administrator. She then excused herself from the meeting during the discussion of the possible reduction, requesting the members consider allowing her the option to accept a lower salary if she thought it appropriate.

Discussion amongst the Selectwoman/Selectmen on the salary reduction for the First Selectwoman. Agreement as to \$120,000 as the salary effective September 7, 2022. Suggestion to receive future feedback from Ms. Vanderslice as to her new time commitments and adjusted responsibilities to allow the board to evaluate the salary. After discussion, motion to reduce the First Selectwoman's compensation to \$120,000 as discussed effective as of September 7, 2022 moved by Ms. Healy. Motion seconded by Mr. Nabulsi and carried 4-0.

Ms. Vanderslice rejoined the meeting and inquired about her ability to accept a lower salary. The board agreed Ms. Vanderslice could not reduce her salary on her own and any change to Ms. Vanderslice's salary would be made by the board.

4. Proposal to Cancel September 6, 2022 Regular Meeting and Schedule a Special Meeting for September 7, 2022

Mr. Vanderslice suggested cancelling the September 6, 2022 BOS Regular Meeting and scheduling a BOS Special Meeting for September 7, 2022 so the Town Administrator can be in attendance. Motion made by Mr. Tartell, seconded by Ms. Healy to cancel the September 6, 2022 BOS meeting and schedule a Special Meeting for September 7, 2022. Motion carried 5-0.

E. Selectmen's Reports

1. First Selectman

Ms. Vanderslice noted Native Plants for Pollinator Day on August 17th. She noted that the Wilton Conservation Commission and the Wilton Pollinator Pathway created a joint program to promote the use of native plants.

2. Selectmen

Mr. Cole
None.

Ms. Healy
None.

Mr. Nabulsi
None.

Mr. Tartell
None.

H. Public Comment

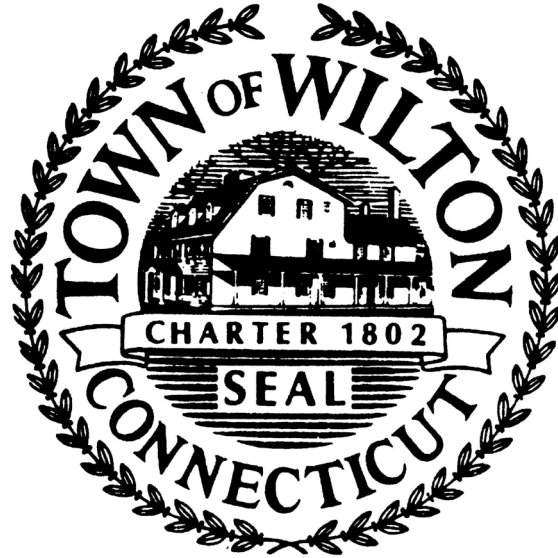
None.

I. Adjournment

Having no further business, Ms. Vanderslice asked for a motion to adjourn at 8:36pm. Motion moved by Ms. Healy, seconded by Mr. Tartell and carried 5-0.

Jacqueline Rochester
Recording Secretary
Taken from Video

WILTON POLICE DEPARTMENT



TRAFFIC SURVEY

Sunset Pass and Sugar Hollow at Danbury Rd

April 2022

Wilton Police Department



240 Danbury Road
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Tel: (203) 834-6260
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To: Wilton Local Traffic Authority

From: Lieutenant David Hartman

Date: April 28, 2022

Re: Sunset Pass and Sugar Hollow at Danbury Rd Sightline

Complaint

On Monday April 18th 2022 Jacqueline Rochester, from the Office of the First Selectwoman, received a signed petition from John Nessel of 3 Cora Ln in Wilton, CT. Mr. Nessel explained that the residents and businesses of Sugar Hollow Rd, Own Home Ave, Connery St, Read Pl, Sunset Pass, Wilridge Rd, Godfrey Ln, Dumplin Hill Rd and Cora Ln objected to the closing of the bridge on Sugar Hollow Rd. Prior to the bridge closing residents, who wanted to turn left out of Sunset Pass to head north bound on Rt 7 (Danbury Rd), would turn left onto Sugar Hollow Rd and exit left onto Rt 7. Residents feel that the lack of sightline to the south as you exit Sunset Pass caused them to exit north bound on Rt 7 by traveling north on Sugar Hollow to exit onto Rt 7 safely. They also felt that the lack of a sightline from Own Home was a concern. Mr. Nessel requested either the bridge to be repaired or traffic lights to be installed at Sunset Pass and/or Own Home Ave.

Site Survey

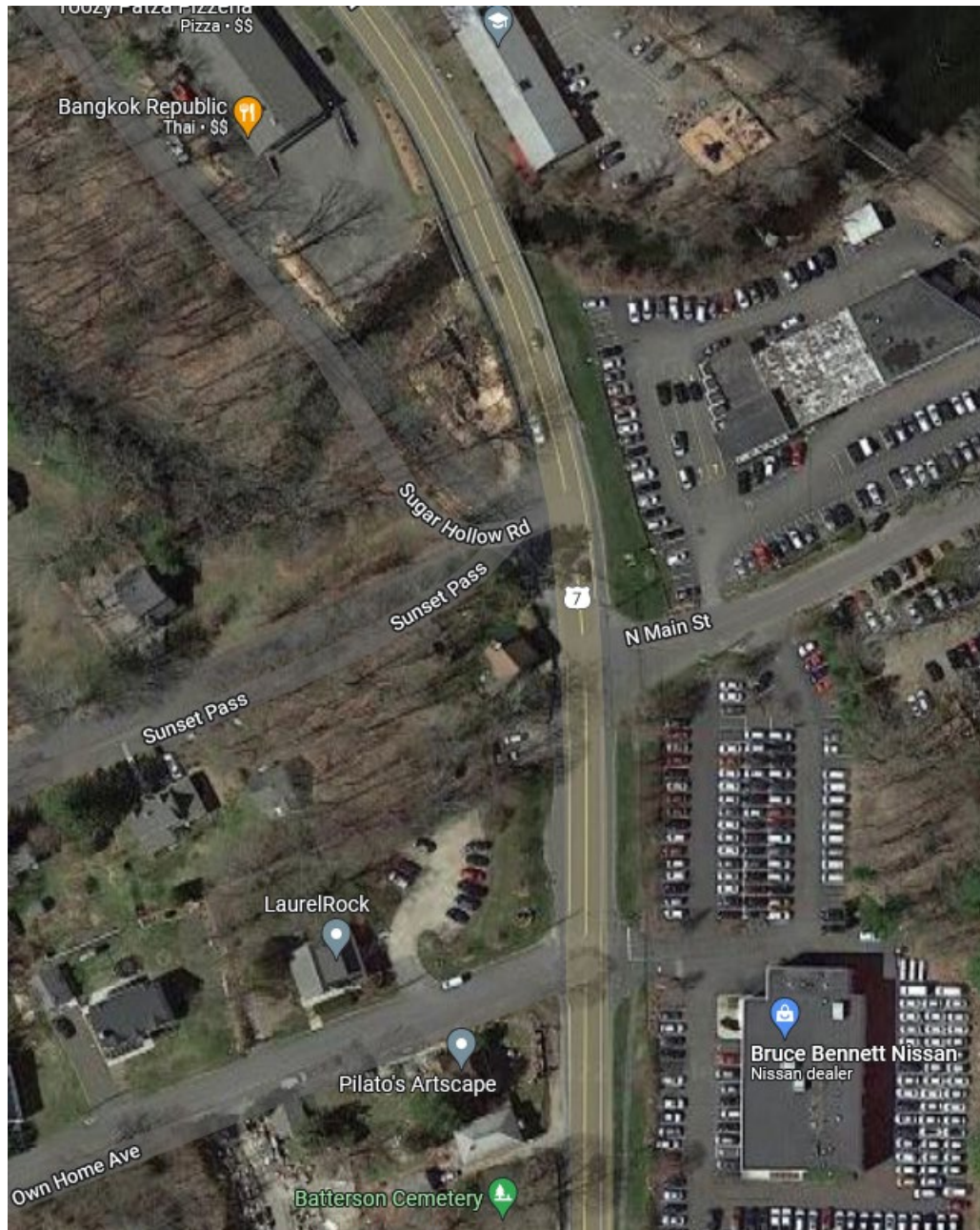
Per Connecticut DOT records, Sunset Pass and Own Home are Town of Wilton roads that are regulated by a 25-mph speed zone.

A review of reportable accidents since January 2020 to present revealed five crashes on Danbury Rd in the area of Sunset Pass and Own Home however, none of the crashes were attributed to the sightline of either road onto Danbury Rd.

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This photo shows the configuration of Sunset Pass and Own Home as they adjoin Rt 7.

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On April 19th the intersection of Sunset Pass and Own Home were reviewed for sightline issues. The sightline from Sunset Pass, to the south was reduced to several feet. The main factors impeding the sightline were the distance the stop bar is from Rt7 and the house/retaining wall for the house, on the southern side of the road, at the corner of Danbury Rd and Sunset Pass.



This is a picture from Sunset Pass at the stop sign at Danbury Rd looking south bound. The Hill and bushes block the view to traffic from the south.

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This picture shows how far the stop sign is from Danbury Rd on Sunset Pass.

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This is a picture of the Danbury Rd/Sunset Pass/Sugar Hollow Rd intersection looking from Danbury Rd. The road directly in front is Sunset Pass and the road to the right is Sugar Hollow. Sugar Hollow is the road that has the bridge over the Norwalk River that is currently closed. The picture also shows the house to the south side of Sunset Pass and the retaining wall/bushes and trees that block the view to the south. This does create a significant safety issue for any traffic looking to exit Sunset Pass to head north bound on Danbury Rd. When leaves are on the trees and bushes the view to the south from Sunset Pass is blocked further.

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The CT DOT Design Manual recommends the following feet of sightline for traffic entering a two-lane road with no median.

Design Speed (V_{major}) (mph)	ISD (ft)		
	Passenger Cars	Single-Unit Trucks	Tractor/Semitrailers
20	225	280	340
25	280	350	425
30	335	420	510
35	390	490	595
40	445	560	680
45	500	630	765
50	555	700	850
55	610	770	930
60	665	840	1015
65	720	910	1100
70	775	980	1185

Notes:

1. *These ISD values assume a left or right turn onto a 2-lane facility without a median.*
2. *These ISD values assume a minor road approach grade less than or equal to +3%.*

INTERSECTION SIGHT DISTANCES
(Two-Lane Highway or Street)

Danbury Rd is a 40-mph speed zone. Per the CT DOT Design Manual, a desired sightline for 40 mph is 445'.

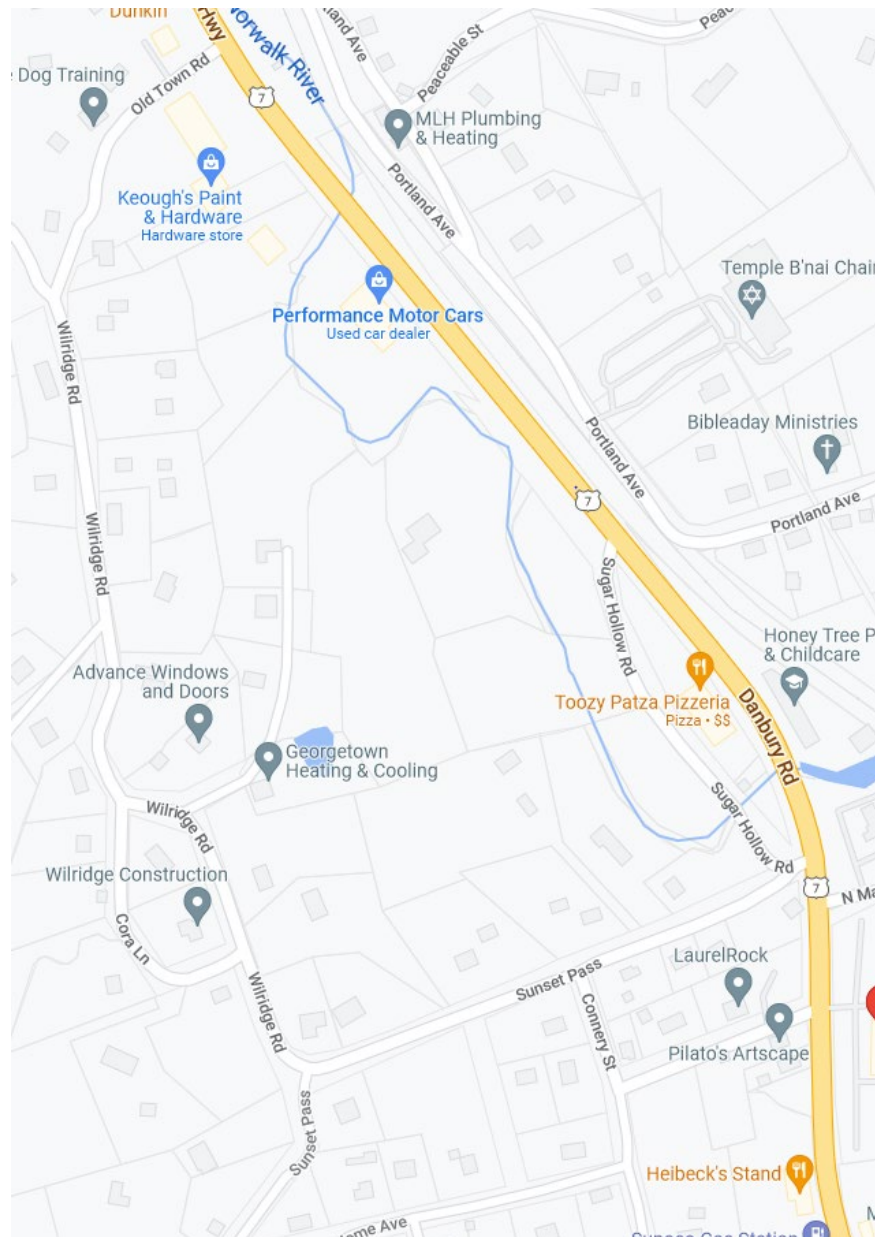
Page 53 of the MUTCD states;

⁰⁷ *STOP or YIELD signs should not be placed farther than 50 feet from the edge of the pavement of the intersected roadway (see Drawing F in Figure 2A-3).*

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The above map shows the close proximity of Sunset Pass to Own Home Ave. Connery St joins both roads. This map also shows Wilridge Rd and how it joins Old Town Rd in Ridgefield.

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On June 21st Frank Smeriglio of Wilton DPW and I met with Craig Yannes of Tighe and Bond. Craig Yannes and Fran Smeriglio reviewed the intersections and concurred with the following recommendations.

Recommendation

After a review of the intersection of Danbury Rd and Sunset Pass there are several recommendations to improve the sightline and safety of everyone using the intersection.

1. The stop bar on Sunset Pass should be moved forward approximately 40' closer to Danbury Rd. This will open the sightline up to approximately 220' to the south.
2. Edge of the road curbing should be extended from Sunset Pass out approximately 35' with asphalt removed and dirt installed behind curbing to allow stop sign to be moved to the new stop bar location.
3. Single yellow line should be painted from the new stop bar location to the old stop bar location to signify the two sides of the road due to the width of the pavement in this area.
4. White fog line should be installed along new extended curbing to the stop sign location.
5. Bushes on the property to the south of Sunset Pass should either be removed or cut back as not to hang out any further than the wall. This would require assistance from the property owner or State of CT depending on their right of way.
6. Operators are encouraged to utilize Own Home to exit onto Danbury Rd north bound until modifications to Sunset Pass can be approved and implemented. (Refer to above map)
7. Operators are also encouraged to utilize Old Town Rd (Ridgefield) to exit onto Danbury Rd. Old Town Rd is north of Sunset Pass and affords motorists an acceptable sightline in both directions (Refer to above map)

It is recommended that the LTA send a letter to CT DOT requesting a change of speed limit in the area from Rt 107 north to the Ridgefield Town Line from 40 mph to 35 mph. This is due to the number of entry / exit driveways and roads in this particular stretch of road.

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The above picture is what the new sightline to the south would look like if the stop bar was moved forward to the recommended location on Sunset Pass (10 ft).

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The following recommendations are made as it pertains to Own Home at Danbury Rd.

1. The stop bar should be moved forward approximately 10' closer to Danbury Rd.
2. Stop sign post should be straightened and stop sign replaced.
3. Tree south of Own Home should be removed to increase obstructions within the sightline to the south. At minimum it should be pruned up to reduce sightline obstruction.



The picture on the left shows the new sightline to the north if the stop bar is moved forward (10 Ft). The picture on the right shows the new sightline to the south if the stop bar on Own Home is moved forward (10 Ft). The tree on the right side of the picture should be removed.