

City of Barre

Public Body Agenda

Date and time of Meeting: 4:30 p.m., Thursday, July 17, 2025

Location of Meeting: City Hall Council Chamber

Call to Order:

In attendance: Art, Kenneth, Jayme. Called to order at 4:45 p.m. Jayme Bauer was welcomed to the committee.

Public Comment:

Council Member Beth Hilgartner, Joanne Reynolds, and Corporal Jacob Frey

Joanne Reynolds has been a homeowner on Hill Street for over 11 years. She reported the following data and observations about the high number of cars that travel on Hill Street:

- Hill Street is the 8th most traveled street in Barre.
- VTRANS does not have data newer than from 2022, but according to this data 5,400 cars travelled on Hill St. daily. This is more traffic than on Mountain to Stowe and Pine Street in Burlington.
- Barre's City Plan does not designate Hill St. as a commercial road.
- Between Nelson and Camp streets, Hill St. is 44 feet wide, which makes traffic travel faster than on other sections of Hill which are 33 feet wide.
- Hill St. needs new line markings. It's hard to see where you should drive.
- There are many children under the age of 10 that live on Hill Street and traffic is becoming more dangerous. In the last 4 years, cars have hit 2 homes, "took out" 2 utility poles, and there were 2 car accidents.

Joanne observed that the city was doing a good job with traffic measures downtown but not in residential neighborhoods, where most drivers don't stop for pedestrians at cross walks.

She provided the following ideas and suggestions for calming traffic on Hill Street, as well as other residential streets like Camp and Merchant which also have heavy traffic.

- There is a divet (sp?) in front of the Habitat for Humanity house, which really slowed down traffic.
- In general, there needs to be more speed limit signs and speed bumps.
- Hard scape solutions could include:

- Stop signs, like on Liberty.
- Speed bumps
- Flashing signs
- Median in the center of the road, where Hill St. is 44 feet wide.
- Allow parking on both sides of the street.
- Build wider sidewalks.

Joanne asked if traffic ticket revenue was kept by the city.

Art said that the stop signs on Liberty were illegal. They are not supposed to be used for traffic calming, but rather at intersections. He added that there was a traffic study conducted, and the signs were put up without legal justification. It creates an issue of whether tickets for running the signs are legal.

Beth asked if the City could make them legal through a committee study and added that Hill Street is not a main thoroughfare and that all high traffic streets are state routes except for Hill and Merchant Streets.

Art said there were different classes of streets. For example, Class 1 includes Route 302 and Route 14. He added that there were route logs, or records of street repairs. Beth asked if the route logs included notes about rules and regulations. Art said no, just records of what repairs were made.

Beth said that the 44-foot-wide section of Hill Street was the most dangerous for pedestrians and cyclists.

Ken noted that there are a lot of ways to calm traffic, it's a matter of will. Art agreed that steps can be taken and added that Jersey bumps were not a good solution.

Joanne asked for more up to date traffic data.

Call to Order:

Ken suggested that Joanne and Beth resume the discussion about the traffic on Hill Street when Steve and Brian were in attendance.

Set Next Meeting Date, Time, and Location

City Council Chamber; 4:30 p.m. Thursday, August 21, 2025.