

From: William Malo [mailto:wfmaloiii@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, December 08, 2015 9:59 AM
To: Andy Hodgdon
Cc: Neil Fulton; Catherine Malo; Nancy Kramer; info@sau70.org
Subject: Steep hill and school buses on Beaver Meadow Rd

Andrew,

I wanted to bring to your attention the steep hill on Beaver Meadow Road between Mitchell Brook and Stagecoach Rd in Norwich.

I do not believe this is a NEW hill. In fact, I am pretty sure it has been here much longer than all of us. So I am confident that the entire Public Works Department - especially the road crew - is well aware of this steep, shaded, winding, paved hill at about 1,200' elevation that traverses a north facing hill and slopes downhill generally to the west. No surprises here.

But almost every winter there is drama on this hill. Sunday early afternoon a car miraculously avoided rolling over (I will NEVER know how), just barely missing a telephone poll, and ended up almost 50' into woods on the south side of road about across from the Beaver Meadow Chapel. There was black ice on that hill Saturday as well. On a day that was sunny at our house at 64 Wallace Farm Rd (we ate lunch in t shirts on deck) this hill remained in the shade, glazed with a film of frozen fog. In the village of Norwich and all over CT River Valley at elevations below about 1000' conditions were raw, freezing fog.

The school bus driver has taken matters dangerously into his own hands, informing the kids that if he thinks it is not safe to go down that hill then the bus stop becomes Stagecoach Rd. This means that kids waiting at BOTH Chapel Hill Rd and Mitchell Brook Road have to guess whether to wait at their bus stop or try to frantically walk/run up this hill to Stagecoach. Perhaps from Chapel Hill Rd they can see up to Stagecoach? But at Mitchell Brook Rd you can not see Stagecoach Rd and have no idea if you should wait for bus or start running along the side and shoulder of Beaver Meadow Rd. And if this hill is icy or the conditions are dangerous and there are kids all over both sides of the Beaver Meadow road desperately rushing to catch a bus that did not complete its route and stopped at Stagecoach Rd and a car comes down the hill out of control I do not want to think about the possible outcomes.

So I would like to ask that you please keep us in mind out here in West Norwich. There is a great deal of traffic on Beaver Meadow Rd as it provides a worthwhile shortcut from Norwich to Sharon and points north on I-89. Those of us with kids riding the school bus from Mitchell Brook Rd and who drive back and forth on Beaver Meadow Rd often multiple times per day would be very appreciative if Public Works could do their best to keep this steep hill on Beaver Meadow Rd safe for travel.

Many thanks.

Sincerely,

bill
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