

A Resolution requesting an updated traffic study, Applegate Corners, Town of Enfield

RESOLUTION #2026-_____

Whereas, “Applegate Corners,” the intersection of NY State Route 79 (Mecklenburg Road) and Applegate Road North and South (County Route 143) in the Town of Enfield has been the scene of numerous traffic accidents in recent decades, including one or more involving a fatality; and

Whereas, this Town Board recognized that fact three years ago when on December 13, 2023 it adopted Resolution #87-2023, a resolution calling upon the Tompkins County Highway Department and the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) to undertake a traffic study of that intersection “to consider any and all improvements that would enhance traffic safety... that may include, but are not necessarily limited to, upgraded signage, pavement modifications, and/or the installation of new traffic control devices, such as an overhead blinker, so as to advise motorists of potential dangers;” and

Whereas, the New York State Department of Transportation undertook that traffic study, with NYSDOT subsequently enhancing signage and making other, yet still limited intersection improvements; and

Whereas, traffic accidents at Applegate Corners have continued despite the enhancements; and

Whereas, following a recent solar farm construction off Applegate Road South, New York State Electric and Gas Corporation (NYSEG) installed a new electrical transmission pole at the intersection’s southeast corner, NYSEG locating the newer pole closer to the Route 79 pavement than the pole it previously utilized, a pole that remains in place; and

Whereas, this newer, larger pole stands in the sight line of approaching Applegate Road motorists and obstructs driver visibility worse than before, particularly for northbound drivers entering the intersection from Applegate Road South, an approach already obstructed by dense foliage and a building standing close to the roadway; and

Whereas, this Town Board believes the new pole’s erection poses particular concern and warrants NYSDOT revisiting safety conditions at the Route 79/Applegate Road intersection; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Enfield Town Board respectfully requests the Tompkins County Highway Department and the New York State Department of Transportation undertake an updated traffic study of the NY State Route 79 (Mecklenburg Road) and Applegate Road North and South (County Route 143) intersection in the Town of Enfield to address the need for additional improvements, including but not limited to traffic control devices, foliage removal within the state- or county-maintained right-of-way, and/or the directing of New York State Electric and Gas Corporation to relocate its recently-installed electrical transmission pole to a location posing less of a safety hazard; and be it further

Resolved, that the Town Clerk shall communicate this request for a traffic study to Nick Ensign, Highway Director, Tompkins County Highway Department, and to Scott Bates, Regional Traffic Engineer, New York State Department of Transportation.

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