

A Resolution to Request Traffic Study, Applegate Corners, Town of Enfield

RESOLUTION #2023-_____

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 become the scene of numerous traffic accidents in recent decades, including one or more involving a fatality; and

Whereas, two serious, multi-vehicle accidents have occurred at that intersection during late-summer and autumn of 2023, the most recent, a two-car collision in late-October of this year that, according to Enfield’s Fire Chief, required the deployment of three ambulances to transport three patients, two of whom had suffered injuries sufficiently serious to require transport to a hospital or hospitals in Syracuse; and

Whereas, in relating details of this latest accident to the Enfield Board of Fire Commissioners on November 6th of this year, Enfield Fire Chief Greg Stevenson described the intersection of NY Route 79 and Applegate Road as currently “our hot corner,” and further stated that, “We have had significant accidents at that intersection recently this year;” and

Whereas, in the opinion of this Town Board, an opinion the Board believes is shared by most Enfield residents, the intersection of NY Route 79 and Applegate Road imposes multiple safety hazards, including limited visibility by motorists on both highways to detect cross-traffic, inadequate notification to drivers on Applegate Road North and South of the need to stop, and a combination of natural and human-created obstructions that limit a driver’s ability to make proper judgments so as to avoid a collision; and

Whereas, the New York State Department of Transportation’s decision in 2022 to reduce the speed limit on Route 79 from 50 to 45 Miles per Hour west of this intersection, while welcomed by the Town, has proven to be an inadequate deterrent to accidents, given the recent collisions afore-noted; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Enfield Town Board requests that the Tompkins County Highway Department undertake a traffic study, in cooperation with the New York State Department of Transportation, of “Applegate Corners,” the intersection of NY Route 79 (Mecklenburg Road) and Applegate Road (CR Route 143) to consider any and all improvements that would enhance traffic safety at that intersection, improvements 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 be it further

Resolved, that the Town Clerk shall communicate said request for traffic study to Jeffrey Smith, Highway Director, Tompkins County Highway Department.

###