From: Sent: To: Linda Becker <aboxofrain@comcast.net> Tuesday, September 26, 2023 3:26 PM Mallory Cook

Dear Mallory -

I am SO hoping I am not too late, with apologies for passing the deadline yesterday! Rick and I are currently in Camden for a few days celebrating my 77th birthday today. Nora sent me an email yesterday but the day of planning and driving for 3 hours, then dinner, etc. took over and I never got back to my plans to contact you.

If you still care to know, Rick and I actually support the idea of a temporary trial with the traffic lights, to see if they help deal with the totally insane amount of traffic moving daily through our wonderful little town. As you my know, we have lived for 43 years in our dear old home in the "crossroads of the planet" in the intersection of Rte 4 (Main St) and Rte. 236. It is appalling how much it has increased, both in numbers, but also in speed heading down the hill past our house...it is both dangerous (especially down town) but also terribly frustrating for drivers sitting in traffic past Vine St.

Best of luck in making your decision. We know you all care deeply, as do we, about community safety and eliminating the overwhelming congestion in South Berwick. Many thanks for your hard work and dedication to this continuing issue! Sincerely,

Linda & Rick Becker

Sent from my iPhone

From:	Greg Zinser <gtzinser@gmail.com></gtzinser@gmail.com>
Sent:	Tuesday, September 26, 2023 11:04 AM
То:	John James; Mallory Cook; Jessica Cyr; Jeff Minihan; Melissa Costella
Cc:	Tim Pellerin
Subject:	Downtown traffic light

Good Morning Councilors,

I would encourage the Council to vote IN FAVOR of the Rt. 236 and downtown traffic light improvement project.

I see the addition of traffic lights as the only viable option for improving traffic flow. This issue has been discussed for many years. It would be counter productive to engage in further studies or "slowing it down" in search of alternatives.

Respectfully, Greg Zinser Back Acres Lane

From: Sent: To: Subject: Rhonda M <whimsyrho@gmail.com> Tuesday, September 26, 2023 9:29 AM councilors Traffic

Hello,

I'm a SB resident and would like to put my two cents in about the traffic issue. I think it's high time to have lights put in downtown. I avoid downtown at all costs because of how packed it is and how fast people drive. I am so happy there is a flashing light for the crosswalk in front of Central/town hall, as many of the people heading home from work drive too fast without paying attention.

Thanks, Rhonda Miller

From:	nicole jalbert <njj412@icloud.com></njj412@icloud.com>
Sent:	Tuesday, September 26, 2023 12:37 AM
То:	councilors
Subject:	Proposed traffic lights

Dear Councilors,

I am new to town and will be celebrating 1 year as a South Berwick resident in November. I love it here and of all the places I've lived this town gives me the most local pride. I live at the intersection of Main Street & 236. 153 Main to be exact. If you pass the driveway you will see the remnants of my Toyota waiting for insurance to come tow it away-- a total loss. Exiting my driveway means to take your life in your hands. Every. Single. Time. When I pulled out of the driveway a few weeks ago, it was clear and the woman waiting to turn onto Main from 236 was polite enough to wave me on first. The road was clear. Until the car came barreling around the corner down Main Street. I understand who has the right of way and that an abundance of caution is needed.. I really, truly do. But anticipating someone flying down that road would mean to never leave my driveway. I don't have a choice in the matter. At the bare minimum I need to go to work, as I was attempting to do that morning. As the police officer so helpfully informed me-- they only test for speed when someone is killed in the accident. I refrained from sarcastically responding: 'well there's alway next time,' because I know that he and the rest of the police department do their best. I did notice a speedometer set up just down the road days later, but frankly it's not in a place that will make a difference for my situation. I respect that you have to do what's best for everyone and that your job isn't a walk in the park, but I just wanted to share my experience. A light would inconvenience some and make it safer for all. Thank you for all you do.

Sincerely, Nicole Jalbert

Sent from my iPhone

From:	Burke Surette <burkesurette@gmail.com></burkesurette@gmail.com>
Sent:	Monday, September 25, 2023 10:25 PM
То:	Mallory Cook
Subject:	traffic in South Berwick

Hi, Mallory,

I am writing as a citizen, just for myself, not for the Reporter.

When I talk about South Berwick, I often say that I just love our town, but that the traffic is such a problem and one of our biggest issues. And I am sad when friends respond that they just won't come through South Berwick because the traffic is such a hassle.

Something has to be done, I think we have all come to that.

But I was struck by Dave Bradley's suggestion at the hearing that we should consider setting up temporary traffic lights to see if they will accomplish our goals. I had not even thought of such a thing and wondered if it came up at any point. I liked his remark that things that look good on paper or computer may not really work out as well in reality. It seems like a smart step that would cost money now but possibly save money in the long run, allowing folks to get some real data, not projections, and either go ahead with confidence or change gears.. I am surprised it isn't the first step in all situations.

A quick google search about such lights turned up these two companies, including one with "Maine" in its name. <u>https://www.centralmainesignal.com/</u>

https://www.streetsmartrental.com/equipment/portable-traffic-

signals?gad=1&gclid=CjwKCAjw38SoBhB6EiwA8EQVLsR2eYqd9log8laCTAOZ1eZKTBna2\_oji3yIHp\_k7kwM3bAqZv499RoC\_468QAvD\_BwE

In addition, lights may help with flow but the sheer volume of traffic is just way too big to begin with, and reduction measures should be a priority. I believe there are quite a few drivers of semi trucks and also passenger cars that are avoiding either the weigh station or the \$4 toll in York or both. On a recent Sunday afternoon, I was driving to Wells, and as I drove out of town on Portland, I counted 80 cars in a continuous line stretching from Main Street towards Outlook!! I do recall someone bringing up a 15 mph speed limit in town at a council meeting and Tim Pellerin said the state won't go below 25. I wonder if that request has been formally made. Perhaps a citizen petition could help. Towns like ours that have state roads as their Main Street, and have such little control should be given special consideration.

I wish you all well. I appreciated the good and thorough presentation you prepared for the public hearing, and I too was surprised at the poor attendance. Thanks for all you do, Susie Burke

From: Sent: To: Subject: marypat60@aol.com Monday, September 25, 2023 8:09 PM councilors Traffic Lights

Council members,

Good evening. Traffic lights downtown should never have been an issue. I am opposed to downtown traffic lights in our village center. I do not think that the lights can guarantee synchronicity and an even flow of traffic especially during key times. I think you will see back ups like you never have before. We have heard several people comment on how lights in town will increase traffic on in-town side roads. We have not heard much on the impact that traffic lights in town will have on the outside town roads such as, Witchtrot, Belle Marsh, Emery's Bridge, Hooper Sands, Knights Pond Road, etc.. These roads are cut through roads for morning and afternoon drivers throughout the week, and, in the summer, on Friday afternoons and Sunday afternoons. Lights downtown are only going to increase traffic as drivers will try and divert the lights. A couple of you town council members live on these roads. I live on Belle Marsh Road and there are times of the day I will not walk on it because of the traffic and speeders. I am not the only one. We use to have people directing traffic downtown during key high traffic areas. That worked fine. It kept the home town feel and the traffic flowing during high traffic hours. When several of them passed on, someone made the decision to eliminate the use of future people to direct traffic. Who, and, why was that decision made? We would not be in this position had you just kept the traffic guards. You can find people to train, and, there certainly is money in the budget to hire a few people. Take care, Mary.

From: Sent: To: Subject: Mary Cardoso <marypat60@aol.com> Monday, September 25, 2023 8:03 PM councilors Downtown traffic light.

#### Council members,

Good evening. Traffic lights downtown should never have been an issue. I am opposed to downtown traffic lights in our village center. I do not think that the lights can guarantee synchronicity and an even flow of traffic especially during key times. I think you will see back ups like you never have before. We have heard several people comment on how lights in town will increase traffic on in-town side roads. We have not heard much on the impact that traffic lights in town will have on the outside town roads such as, Witchtrot, Belle Marsh, Emery's Bridge, Hooper Sands, Knights Pond Road, etc.. These roads are cut through roads for morning and afternoon drivers throughout the week, and, in the summer, on Friday afternoons and Sunday afternoons. Lights downtown are only going to increase traffic as drivers will try and divert the lights. A couple of you town council members live on these roads. I live on Belle Marsh Road and there are times of the day I will not walk on it because of the traffic and speeders. I am not the only one. We use to have people directing traffic downtown during key high traffic areas. That worked fine. It kept the home town feel and the traffic flowing during high traffic hours. When several of them passed on, someone made the decision to eliminate the use of future people to direct traffic. Who, and, why was that decision made? We would not be in this position had you just kept the traffic guards. You can find people to train, and, there certainly is money in the budget to hire a few people. Take care, Mary.

From: Sent: To: Karen Spillane <ksenergetics6@gmail.com> Monday, September 25, 2023 7:50 PM Mallory Cook

Mallory, I support a trial period for the traffic lights. Thank you, Karen Spillane

From:	Scott Bresnahan <sbresnahan@gmail.com></sbresnahan@gmail.com>
Sent:	Monday, September 25, 2023 7:33 PM
То:	councilors
Subject:	Feedback for Traffic Study

Councilors;

Having only lived in town 6.5 years I can honestly say there has never been a more obvious need than traffic lights at both intersections downtown. The fact that there hasn't been traffic signals there for decades is absolutely insane to any outsider from town. The fact that this is even up for this level of debate after so much time is asinine, especially given the recent work to add the traffic light at Rt 91 and the incentives offered by the MDOT and the opportunity to fund some of the work without raising tax revenue.

The arguments for doing nothing as to "not ruin the small town feel" ring hollow and and don't consider the potential disastrous outcomes that are eventual given the amount of traffic and pedestrian interactions in the area.

-Small towns still have traffic signals, it does not make them less quaint, no one argues that the signaled crosswalk from Town Hall to Center School makes the town less quaint

-There are traffic signals at just about every major intersection on Rt 236 except in South Berwick

-Traffic is already cutting through neighborhood streets and traveling at increased speeds due to disgruntled drivers who can't make turns

-It is difficult to make it through the intersection or park on the street downtown, many people, including myself avoid patronizing local businesses because it is too inconvenient and dangerous.

-Losing a couple of parking spots matters little when we choose to avoid downtown businesses because of the traffic -Manning the intersection with police is extremely expensive, unreliable given other duties, and increases town liability in the event of an accident

-The traffic needs to be slowed down in that section of road where our youngest children attend school

Why a roundabout wouldn't work

-I don't believe the intersection is large enough to install a rotary that would be large enough to handle the traffic volumes necessary now, let alone the future

-I think a roundabout would limit the ability of larger trucks, tractor trailers, busses, etc. from transiting the intersection as it would be too small

-You most likely would still be losing parking spaces with a rotary

-A rotary would still give too much preference for traffic heading straight down 236 and would not do enough to ease traffic heading onto or from Portland St

-Traffic circles, especially with this volume of traffic are more dangerous for pedestrians, see Kittery circle for example -A circle gives the town less ability to control traffic manually with police for special events like Strawberry festival, Halloween, etc. than either the current setup or lights

-A traffic circle requires greater reconfiguration of the intersection, will cause greater traffic disruptions during construction, will cost more to install, and will be more difficult to remove snow from given the constraints in winter

Traffic lights are a no brainer, absent a miracle bypass road to move some volume around the center of town, it is the only solution before things get worse.

-Pedestrian safety should be the #1 priority, a signaled intersection give the best improvement available -Improving pedestrian interactions and slowing traffic by creating pauses in traffic flow to allow vehicles to try and park in what available street parking there is will increase patronage of downtown businesses not decrease it -Traffic lights give the police a better method to manually control traffic for special events downtown -Traffic signals are easier to install and create less disruption to traffic flow than a roundabout and require less physical reconfiguration of downtown

-Traffic cutting through neighborhoods will continue as it is currently, but can be remedied with proper signal timing and other measures such as restricted one-ways (Kittery has done this to address Shipyard traffic in the AM), but this should not be an argument against lights as this is necessary to address regardless of action taken

-People will get used to the lights within a year and no one will imagine that we could have not had them at some point -Improving the intersection will increase the value of the existing town hall for whatever future purpose will come and make it more attractive for commercial or residential development if the town decides to relocate town hall

In conclusion, install the lights at both the downtown intersection and at the Cumberland Farms intersection. There has never been a more obvious solution in the history of city planning. If there is need for proof, I'd venture you could compare sales volume at the South Berwick Cumbys to the Rollinsford, Eliot, and North Berwick Cumbys (all on the same road) and the difference will be shocking, there's a reason that was the last to get renovated and is the smallest of them. Then compare the DD in town to the Kittery one, the Subway to the North Berwick one, the Aroma Joes to any of the dozens in the area. I can all but guarantee the sales to traffic volume ratio will be staggering to any of the others on the same roads, because the intersections are such a nightmare that people just want to get through our town as fast as they can. It is a nightmare to pass through, let alone stop and patronize any of those locations so people don't. I can't believe I am still writing about this. This is the biggest problem with our town and it has the most obvious solution in the world. Vote to proceed with MDOT on installing the traffic lights at the Portland Street intersection now. If the project does not include lights at the Cumberland Farms add that to the project now, do not waste any more time on studies or public input sessions. At some point public policy and city planning need to outweigh the small, but vocal minority who think the town will be irrepribally changed forever because of a traffic light.

Thank you for your time and your service to the town.

Scott Bresnahan and Jami Golkowski 15 Brookwood Drive

From:	Virginia Wilson <ginia.wilson50@gmail.com></ginia.wilson50@gmail.com>
Sent:	Monday, September 25, 2023 7:14 PM
То:	Mallory Cook
Subject:	Traffic

I hope this is not too late, but I did want to let you know my thoughts on this issue. I do believe traffic lights are needed downtown. Temporary lights as trials may be the best approach.

Although I have seen traffic circles work well in some locations I do not believe they are appropriate downtown. I have lived in town for over forty years and have taken many walks and jogs through town. The walkability of the downtown is one of its finest features and many take advantage. Walking through traffic circles is not very inviting and doesn't feel safe..

I do believe a benefit of traffic lights is that you know you will get your turn and you do not have to play Russian Roulette. The anxiety we all experience at these intersections can contribute to us making dangerous decisions.

Thank you for looking into this for us.

Sincerely,

Virginia Wilson

From: Sent: To: Subject: John Pelkey <jpelkey@vertexeng.com> Monday, September 25, 2023 6:51 PM councilors Traffic

Good Evening,

I am glad something is being done about the traffic situation downtown.

Stoplights are probably the best/easiest option. That said, I think it would be foolish not to start with temporary/construction stoplights for a few months as a trial run to make sure that lights actually solve or alleviate the problem.

Another option could be a traffic circle at the intersection of Main and Portland with flashing lights at all the crosswalk points. Then, instead of a second traffic circle at Main and 236, just putting in an additional lane onto Main, for those taking a right off of 236. Those two lanes would merge as a zipper, similar to the setup getting off 95 onto 236 heading towards town.

Thanks for listening!

John P. Pelkey SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER

C: 860.463.9736 | VERTEXENG.COM

THE VERTEX COMPANIES, LLC 100 NORTH WASHINGTON STREET, SUITE 302 BOSTON, MA 02114

From:	Paul Steinhauer < steinhauer.paul@comcast.net >
Sent:	Monday, September 25, 2023 4:32 PM
То:	councilors
Subject:	Traffic Study Citizen Input

South Berwick Town Councilors,

Due to a family obligation I was not able to attend the Traffic Public Hearing last week, however I do want to provide my input for your consideration.

Since 1988, I have witnessed an ever growing volume of traffic along the Rt 236 and Rt 4 corridors running through our town. The increase, which can be attributed to many different reasons including the increasing cost of the York tolls on the Maine Turnpike, has had a negative impact to the traffic flow and pedestrian safety our downtown area.

Over the years we have spent a significant amount of taxpayer dollars on research studies and have had many lengthy discussions with no resolution. A bypass, one way street traffic changes, lights and roundabouts have been provided for resident input, but no one solution was agreed upon. All this while the traffic flow increased, pedestrian safety diminished and over all downtown vehicular safety has suffered.

While I understand having a traffic light, or two or three in our town may detract of it's "small town" appeal, the time has come to address this long standing issue. As there is no easy way to reduce the *volume* of traffic, the best we can do is to improve how it is *managed*. As we have finally come to the end of the line on possible alternatives, I support the placing of a traffic light at the intersections of Rt 236 and Rt 4, at the center of town at the Sara Orne Jewett House **and** at Cumberland Farms.

This is long overdue. I urge the council to move forward with this action.

Perhaps to help qualm any public outcry, you may consider a trial run using temporary traffic lights, like those used at construction sites. It would be interesting to observe the results.

Thank you for your time and attention to address this long standing public safety concern.

Paul Steinhauer 19 Hill Drive

From:	Sue Godel <s.godel@comcast.net></s.godel@comcast.net>
Sent:	Monday, September 25, 2023 4:12 PM
То:	councilors
Subject:	Thoughts on traffic options

Hello Councilors,

Firstly, thank you all for stepping up to the task of town governance. I am sure that it takes a great deal of work and a thick skin to be a town councilor.

I have lived in this village since buying my home (20 Parent Street, on the corner of Parent on Young) in 1985. I have witnessed first hand, every day, the effects, and unpleasantness of ever-increasing traffic. I have experienced it both as a driver and as a pedestrian, and also as a mother of two kids who attended Central School in the early 2000s.

I also recall the myriad of changes that the downtown business district has experienced. The economic climate has shifted many, many times over those last 40 years. I firmly believe that the health of that downtown is absolutely vital to health of our underlying sense of community, and to our property values. A walkable village filled with earnest entrepreneurs, appealing restaurants, and professional services is the best kind of village to have, and we are fortunate to have it, (most of those years.) Whatever changes we make to accommodate those driving through town should put the needs of small downtown businesses first, pedestrians second, and drivers always third.

I know the traffic congestion level of today is a real pain to drivers, and their frustration gets directed to their gas pedal, and that sometimes puts pedestrians and other drivers at risk. The only real "solution" to our traffic congestions is the creation of an alternate route around town — but I know that is not a solution that is likely to happen any time soon. Short of a bypass, I think the most effective thing we could do to alleviate congestion at peak times is to relocate the elementary school. The delivery of kids to and from Central Schoo significantly exacerbates traffic downtown.

I don't believe that traffic lights with turning lanes will do much, if anything, to actually speed the flow of traffic through the town. I think traffic lights will primarily remove the psychological stress of wondering "when can I go," and some of that accompanying stress we feel when cars are backed up behind us. But I think ultimately drivers will be just about as frustrated sitting at red lights and waiting for green arrows as they are today, with nothing but a single stop sign.

My ideal traffic management solution would have been a three-way stop, with no left turning lanes. I realize it's practically archaic, but it is a simple, fair, and well-understood system that is safe for all. It would not speed things up. But it would give drivers a clear way to know "when they can go" and it would preserve the downtown as a business and pedestrian-friendly zone.

Despite what I've said above, I do not totally oppose the installation of lights. But since I have serious doubts about their success, **I would be very much in favor of any kind of TRIAL or TEMPORARY LIGHT system that could be installed**. The installation of permanent lights will no doubt be a big construction effort, and will have serious impact on the look and feel of the village, and consequently on the businesses there. It would be wonderful if we could try the lights before we buy.

If trial is impossible, then I cannot say that I will ever be "for" the installation of lights, but neither can I say that it will be possible to avoid them. There is simply too much momentum behind the "we need a light" sentiment.

I once thought maybe a rotary would be better downtown. But no, it would be ghastly. **Don't do a rotary no matter what.** 

Lastly, I have not given as much thought to the intersection of 236 and 4, but I think that is a situation that would benefit from lights with left turn lanes.

Thanks again to eat of you for your work in helping to keep our town as happy and healthy as possible. I do appreciate it.

Sue Godel

From: Sent: To: Subject: Rev Deborah CR Cotter <deborahcrcotter@gmail.com> Monday, September 25, 2023 4:07 PM councilors traffic lights

Hello,

I am a third generation South Berwick resident. My input is that the town uses a temporary traffic light setup to see how a light system will work. Certainly the town has to move forward to lessen the problem. Thank you for considering various options before making the final decision. Is a temporary system possible for say six months?

Respectfully submitted,

Rev Deborah CR Cotter 13 Waterside Lane South Berwick

From:	Cynthia Moloney <cynthia.moloney@rsu35.org></cynthia.moloney@rsu35.org>
Sent:	Monday, September 25, 2023 4:06 PM
То:	councilors
Subject:	Traffic Lights

Dear South Berwick Town Councilors,

I beg you to give traffic lights a try (or even 3 way stop signs) at both locations discussed. Anything to slow people down and make it possible to make left turns without the current stress. Last spring I was nearly hit in a crosswalk by someone turning left onto Route 4. It was very scary and I am thankful a friend pulled me out of the way of the speeding truck (that never stopped to see if I was ok). Just last week when I stopped for a couple in a crosswalk, the car behind me actually pulled out and passed me. Screeching brakes and terror on the faces from the crosswalk ensued.

I understand that people want to preserve the look of the old fashioned town, but that is no longer a viable option. Please vote for stop signs or traffic lights.

Thank you,

**Cindy Moloney** 

Cindy Moloney Marshwood Great Works School Library 49 Academy Street South Berwick, ME 03908 <u>cynthia.moloney@rsu35.org</u> 207-384-4010

From:	Craig Hopkins <craigjhopkins@me.com></craigjhopkins@me.com>
Sent:	Monday, September 25, 2023 4:04 PM
То:	councilors
Subject:	South Berwick Main Street and Route 236 intersection, Main Street and Portland St

Dear South Berwick town councilors,

Please follow the recommendations from the traffic studies re: both the South Berwick Main Street and Route 236 intersection, and Main Street and Portland St intersections to implement traffic light systems.

The current intersection free for alls in these areas are not only dangerous to motorists and pedestrians, having an entirely unmanaged traffic pattern at the center of our town is what is damaging the "small town" feel. There is nothing positive and quaint about 30+ cars stacked up waiting to turn across traffic, made worse by poor lines of sight because of the on street parking near the apex.

This area will only continue to increase in local population, as well as increasing regional traffic using this intersection as part of their daily commute.

Please do right by our town residents and implement the traffic light recommendations at both the Main Street and Route 236 intersection, and the Main Street and Portland St intersection.

Thank you,

Craig Hopkins

From: Sent: To: Subject: LINDA YOUNG <lindalyoung212@yahoo.com> Monday, September 25, 2023 3:53 PM councilors Traffic Lights

Hi -

I agree something needs to be done at high traffic times but not sure lights are the solution. They will just back up traffic every way/every day and not just coming off of Portland Street. I especially don't see a need for anything at 236/Main Street why are we looking at that. I have lived in South Berwick my whole life most of it on Waterside where this didn't affect me as much as I didn't have a need to go through town often. I am now living on Young Street and I have a feeling people will be trying to take a short cut to avoid any lights just as people do now on Norton and Highland to avoid the intersection in town. I think they should go back to a traffic officer in town during high traffic times that seemed to work pretty good as they can see where the traffic needs to move and a light won't be able to do that which will cause people to have to wait for a light even if there is no traffic. I agree with some of these people that maybe there should be more advertising about these meetings to make sure as many people as possible will go. And more meetings in case people aren't able to go to the only one scheduled.

Thank you, Linda Merrill

Sent from my iPhone

From:	Tamre Steinhauer <tdsteinhauer@comcast.net></tdsteinhauer@comcast.net>
Sent:	Monday, September 25, 2023 3:51 PM
То:	councilors
Subject:	Traffic Lights

Dear Town Council Members:

I am writing to support the consideration of two traffic lights in town. While there may some disadvantages to the idea, overall I think it will be positive, and will help alleviate the congestion downtown and the insure the safety of pedestrians.

Thank you for wrangling this very tough topic. Sincerely,

Tamre D Steinhauer

From: Sent: To: Subject: Brian Straub <brian.t.straub@gmail.com> Monday, September 25, 2023 3:42 PM councilors Town Lights

Hello,

I live at 53 Brattle and have lived in South Berwick my whole life . My opinion is traffic lights are a terrible idea . The lights will make the town feel like Massachusetts, and the delay between signals will actually increase traffic jams . I think the best option to reduce traffics is to have a cop work the downtown intersection . Also , we need a bypass to do traffic doesn't even come through downtown

Brian Straub

603.767.4966

Sent from my iPhone

From:	SHONA TAPLIN <downpat26@comcast.net></downpat26@comcast.net>
Sent:	Monday, September 25, 2023 3:34 PM
То:	Mallory Cook
Subject:	Traffic Lights SouthBerwick

Mallory I support the installation of traffic lights at the two proposed locations in South Berwick. However I would hope that this incorporates a plan to have two lanes on 236 leading up to the Cumberland Farms/Rte 4 intersection. As a resident who has to take a left at that intersection, I am so appreciative of the fact that cars move over to the right even though there is no official lane to accommodate them.

Shona Taplin

From:	Kimberly Phoenix <kfeenix@gmail.com></kfeenix@gmail.com>
Sent:	Monday, September 25, 2023 3:27 PM
То:	Mallory Cook
Subject:	Traffic Light in South Berwick

Thank you for sharing all the information on the traffic light situation in downtown South Berwick. Understandably, people in the Town are concerned about how a traffic light might affect the flow of traffic in the Town, but how about those trying to get out from Agamenticus Road?

What about the possibility of placing the traffic light at Agamenticus and the Center of Town, or further back by Blueberry Hill? It could provide a break in traffic for those who are trying to turn left or crossing the road at the end of Agamenticus Road. There are times we sit for an excess of 8 minutes trying to get out.

It's important to consider the potential impact on different parts of the Town, and not just Young and Norton.

Thank you for listening.

Kim

From: Sent: To: Subject: Chris Childress <chrischildress65@gmail.com> Monday, September 25, 2023 3:01 PM councilors Traffic Lights

I am in complete favor of lights downtown and at the Cumberland Farms intersection. I think we should bring in temporary lights for six months or so and have another traffic study done. I'd like to see how easy/difficult it would be for emergency services to get through those intersections. Parking downtown is inadequate already, which is nobody's fault, so I don't believe this would really have a huge impact if we lost a couple spaces. Right now, it's a dangerous intersection, both for drivers and pedestrians.

Chris Childress *120 Knights Pond Rd* (207)698-0081

From:	Puff Uhlman <puffmaine@yahoo.com></puffmaine@yahoo.com>
Sent:	Monday, September 25, 2023 2:45 PM
То:	Mallory Cook
Subject:	Downtown and 236 lights

I've lived here for twenty odd years now and have wondered why on earth we haven't had lights at either location for years! I'm all for the state going ahead and putting them in as it would be of no cost to our Town! I'm assuming the Town putting in temporary lights would cost us? That, if true, doesn't make any sense to me. So yes, State of Maine please go ahead and help us out before someone gets killed at either location. Sincerely, Puff Uhlman, 21 Vine Street, South Berwick, ME.

Sent from my iPad

From:	Rebecca Tay <rebecca.shields.tay@gmail.com></rebecca.shields.tay@gmail.com>
Sent:	Monday, September 25, 2023 2:44 PM
То:	councilors
Subject:	Pro Stoplights

An overdue comment, perhaps. I have been avoiding downtown South Berwick for almost the entire two years since I have returned to live here. We lived here from 2013 through 2017 and returned at the end of 2021, and the traffic is so much worse now than it was then. I have a teenager with a learner's permit now and two more aspiring drivers, and really do not look forward toy children turning left from Route 4 onto Route 236. (Or turning out of the high school lot.) In town, there are so many things to watch: vehicles exiting parking spots, vehicles turning out of lots, vehicles going straight, pedestrians crossing crosswalks, people opening car doors, judging whether you have space to go when you can't see past parked vehicles. It is incredibly dangerous.

The most frequent complaint I hear is loss of parking spots. I do not see how this is a major issue. There is parking at the post office, there is parking at the library, there is street parking, there is parking at Townhall, and there is parking at Central School. If people cannot walk more than 5 to 10 steps, that would be a concern and there should certainly be handicapped parking. But those of us who actually want to visit the stores are certainly capable of walking a few steps. The town has already lost my business because I won't be bothered to go into the massive traffic and risk an accident. In the past year, I've barely avoided two when other drivers didn't see my car somehow. If the lights help with that, I will gladly be back at our town businesses. At this point, if I'm going through town, it would only be at the times when there is less traffic and certainly not on a Sunday in the summer.

I have also heard people complaining that this will take away from the small town feel. Mass amounts of traffic in town already take away from the small town feel, and so do a number of tractor trailers. I do not know how our town became through route, but traffic light or not, traffic is here. We need to work on improving the safety for people who are driving and for pedestrians, and that is with a traffic light.

I continue hearing complaints about people using residential routes to skirt the traffic: that will continue. We have map applications to thank for that, and it would be great if they would use main routes only. But they don't. I live on Waterside Lane, and it is a daily racetrack when people go to and return from work. 25mph is a joke on this street. When we lived here in 2013-2017, it was a much quieter street. But what can be done? It is still a street, and people will take it because they know where it goes. A traffic light may not solve traffic on side streets, but it will certainly make turning left at the stop sign much safer and should function to move the traffic more quickly.

Rebecca Tay

From:	Mary Lou Bagley <mlbagley@comcast.net></mlbagley@comcast.net>
Sent:	Monday, September 25, 2023 2:38 PM
То:	Mallory Cook
Subject:	Traffic lights downtown

We in the Bagley household on Oldfields rd strongly recommend a TRIAL PERIOD with TEMPORARY LIGHTS in both locations in town. That would be the most reasonable & effective way to determine if that is the appropriate long term solution.

PLEASE vote for that. Thank you, Mary Lou & Bob Bagley

Sent from my iPhone

From:	Adam Bataran <abataran@gmail.com></abataran@gmail.com>
Sent:	Monday, September 25, 2023 2:38 PM
То:	councilors
Subject:	Advocating for Traffic Lights to Improve Traffic Conditions

Karl Adam Bataran 6 Finson Road South Berwick, 03908

Subject: Advocating for Traffic Lights to Improve Traffic Conditions

Dear Members of the South Berwick Town Council,

Thank you for the work you do!

I am writing to express my strong support for the installation of traffic lights for the Portland & Main and 236 & Main intersections. I understand that this proposal may raise concerns among some residents who appreciate the current aesthetic and pace of our town. However, I firmly believe that the numerous benefits that traffic lights can offer far outweigh any reservations regarding their appearance.

The fact that 17 traffic studies have been completed since 1985 categorically resolves any concerns on due diligence. It's time to take action and install traffic lights.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

K. Adam Bataran

From:	Lisa S <lsintiris@gmail.com></lsintiris@gmail.com>
Sent:	Monday, September 25, 2023 2:19 PM
То:	councilors
Subject:	Traffic light input from residents

Hi there,

My name is Lisa Sintiris & my husband is William Sintiris. We live at 5 Hill Drive here in South Berwick.

I have Bill's permission to speak on his behalf (but if it's not acceptable we understand). (He's driving 🙃)

We have lived here for 24 years. We'd simply like to say we both are on support of any and all traffic lights the town council sees fit. Anything that helps keep all drivers safe is in the town's best interest.

You are welcome to read this at the meeting as anonymous. I am out of town, and can't attend the meeting, otherwise I would especially at this crucial state.

Since we can't be there we prefer this statement stay between the board & those who need to see it. However, not publicly.

Is that ok? Thank you, Sincerely, Lisa & Bill Sintiris

From: Sent: To: Subject: Nora Irvine <journeybag@aol.com> Monday, September 25, 2023 2:03 PM Mallory Cook opinion on traffic lights

Hello Mallory,

I was struck by the sensible suggestion of the fellow at the public hearing who said a trial run with portable traffic lights for, say, one year (timeline mine) would confirm whether they would in fact accomplish the goals set for them.

As Cliff Cleary said, paraphrasing here, God help us if we get this wrong.

Thanks for the excellent presentation last week. Yes, the community has struggled with getting this issue right for decades, at least as long as I've been here, nearly 50 years.

Best regards, Nora Irvine

Sent from my iPad

From:Amanda Donovan < amandadonovan05@gmail.com>Sent:Monday, September 25, 2023 1:53 PMTo:Mallory CookSubject:traffic lights downtown

Hi, I wish some of the previous ideas had been better explored- bump out etc. But since it seems it is lights or nothing-I think traffic lights will at least make it easier for everyone, especially pedestrians. Amanda Donovan

M <hshea1023@gmail.com></hshea1023@gmail.com>
ay, September 25, 2023 1:32 PM
lors
ights

Good afternoon South Berwick town council members,

My name is Hillary Morgridge and I am a South Berwick resident. I was told you were accepting letters from residents regarding a potential traffic light and to submit via email. While only 15 people may have shown up to the last meeting I do want to point out the drain this economy is taking on so many South Berwick families. Families like ours who have had to come up with creative solutions to supplement income— like working nights as I do. I sincerely appreciate the opportunity to write this letter, and for all of you opening this discussion up for residents whose schedules make it difficult to attend in-person.

I grew up here, as did my husband, and now we are raising our children here. My mother still lives here in the home I grew up in. We have a good indication of just how much the traffic patterns and volume have changed in South Berwick over the years. My husband lived on Norton Street from the age of 12-22. When we moved back to town from Dover, NH, after having our first baby we rented a small home on Union street. I learned quickly that walking in town was risky and certain times of day were downright dangerous to walk and push my son in a stroller. Certain crosswalks would never be safe to trust I'd be given the right of way. I was nearly hit at the Dunkin' Donuts crosswalk twice WHILE PUSHING A STROLLER in a 1.5 year period. After the third time, this time without the stroller, it was enough for me. My husband couldn't believe how bad it had gotten and started insisting I wait for him to get home before I took my son for our nightly stroll. We lived in downtown Dover for 2 years and walked endlessly. I worked and now work again in downtown Portsmouth. We never dealt with feeling so at-risk of someone not stopping at a crosswalk while living in Dover, and walking into work in Portsmouth. We ended up buying a home in the woods away from these drivers stuck in the cloud of their commutes. I never wanted to be away from motorists as much as I did after that time period renting on Union Street. South Berwick is a "thru town" to many motorists; a town to get through as quick as possible. Whether that's cutting down side streets, disregarding crosswalks, school zone speed limits, or using the lack of lights as an invitation for making their own rules: it is abundantly clear at certain times of day 90% of the traffic does not care to remember the people who call South Berwick home. Every delay that our traffic problem causes creates ripple effects in the motorists passing through. It may create a delay just long enough to push that frustrated driver to cut through a side road going 10-15 (or more) MPH faster. The idea that even needing a shortcut to avoid downtown because of it's notorious lack of flow compounds these problems. The volume of vehicles is only getting worse and worse. Every Sunday in the summer we avoid route 4, even though it is our closest access point out of town. We should look for a solution to get commuters through town in a timely fashion while also making every effort to keep traffic traveling the speed limit. My hope is that a light will move traffic more uniformly so less people are tempted to take a side road, and by reducing the time it takes to get out of the intersection onto Main Street which will (hopefully) put people in less of a rush. As we all know, the road to Hell is paved with good intentions. So with all that being said, I also think rushing into a solution when we have no real way of knowing what unintended consequences may arise is risky and potentially opening more problems for the town and residents. That is why I am supporting the idea of a temporary traffic light. I think it can ease a major amount of the traffic congestion for now while also leaving time and space to adjust to any unforeseen issues before anything becomes permanent. I do think there is also a nostalgic angst in certain groups of residents when the traffic light discussion arises. It is hard for some townspeople who have lived and loved South Berwick as their own for so long to think of such a big change to the layout of their beloved town. I believe we can maintain our small town charm while also taking rational steps to modernize traffic infrastructure as many towns in New England have also had to do. We don't know until we try and I hope that a temporary solution will satisfy both hesitant and non-hesitant residents and get the ball rolling for a final decision in the near future. Thank you again for your

willingness to open discussion via email and for listening to the residents who have been begging for a solution for so long. Sincerely, Hillary Morgridge South Berwick, Maine

From: Sent: To: Subject: Alex Gagnon <alexander.f.gagnon@gmail.com> Monday, September 25, 2023 1:02 PM councilors Traffic light decision

Hello,

I am writing in support of the traffic lights in Downtown South Berwick. As a citizen that lives in the downtown area trying to navigate as a motorist and a pedestrian has become increasingly unsafe. There have been numerous times where I have almost been hit in a crosswalk due to a motorist trying to hurry through the intersection when a small opening arises. The flashing pedestrian signs help but if we truly want to become a walkable downtown and attract more local business we need to have a safe way to move across the street. Frankly the town has gotten too large to not do anything to address the traffic and safety of these intersections.

After watching the council meeting last Tuesday I do agree with Brett Cropp that the light may cause people to use Young, Parent and Sewall as cut throughs. I hope if we do move forward with the light we will give serious consideration on how to address this issue with either speed bumps or another mechanism as well as looking at the speed limits in these areas. As it stands today we deal with a lot of people flying through these roads in order to get to route 4.

Thanks, Alex Gagnon <u>18 Sewall Rd.</u> South Berwick, ME

From: Sent: To: Subject: Connor Gagnon <connor.l.gagnon@gmail.com> Monday, September 25, 2023 12:59 PM councilors Traffic Lights Downtown

Hello,

I am writing in support of the traffic lights in Downtown South Berwick. As a citizen that lives in the downtown area trying to navigate as a motorist and a pedestrian has become increasingly unsafe. There have been numerous times where I have almost been hit in a crosswalk due to a motorist trying to hurry through the intersection when a small opening arises. The flashing pedestrian signs help but if we truly want to become a walkable downtown and attract more local business we need to have a safe way to move across the street. Frankly the town has gotten too large to not do anything to address the traffic and safety of these intersections.

After watching the council meeting last Tuesday I do agree with Brett Cropp that the light may cause people to use Young, Parent and Sewall as cut throughs. I hope if we do move forward with the light we will give serious consideration on how to address this issue with either speed bumps or another mechanism as well as looking at the speed limits in these areas. As it stands today we deal with a lot of people flying through these roads in order to get to route 4.

Thanks, Connor Gagnon 18 Sewall Rd. South Berwick, ME

From: Sent: To: Cc: Subject: Dawn Moreau Monday, September 25, 2023 12:52 PM jni676@aol.com Mallory Cook RE: Traffic lights

Thank you for your response.

I will share your concerns with the Town Council.

Thank you,

## Dawn Moreau

Executive Assistant to Administration Town of South Berwick

dmoreau@sbmaine.us Direct Line: (207) 384-3017

Office Hours: Monday- Thursday 8:30-4:30

180 Main Street South Berwick, ME 03908

From: jni676@aol.com <jni676@aol.com> Sent: Monday, September 25, 2023 12:50 PM To: Dawn Moreau <dmoreau@sbmaine.us> Cc: Mallory Cook <mcook@sbmaine.us> Subject: Traffic lights

Hi Dawn,

The current situation is unacceptable and the intersections are too small for roundabouts, so it seems that traffic lights are the only available solution. But there are questions about the effectiveness of traffic lights in our particular situation and their effect on the town's character. One way to answer these questions would be to accept Mr Bradley's suggestion of a trial run with temporary lights, and I would like to ask the Council to look into this option. Thank you.

John Irvine 49 Highland Ave

From: Sent: To: Subject: jni676@aol.com Monday, September 25, 2023 12:47 PM Mallory Cook Traffic lights

Hi Mallory,

The current situation is unacceptable and the intersections are too small for roundabouts, so it seems that traffic lights are the only available solution. But there are questions about the effectiveness of traffic lights in our particular situation and their effect on the town's character. One way to answer these questions would be to accept Mr Bradley's suggestion of a trial run with temporary lights, and I would like to ask the Council to look into this option. Thank you.

John Irvine 49 Highland Ave

From:	Kate Smith <kate.smith@rsu35.org></kate.smith@rsu35.org>
Sent:	Monday, September 25, 2023 12:14 PM
То:	councilors
Subject:	Lights feedback

Hello Councilors,

My name is Kate Smith, I am a teacher at Central School. I don't have a strong opinion about the lights, only that the traffic downtown has really gotten complicated over the past few years and needs to be resolved.

For the past 10 years, I have had the opportunity to help students cross from the library parking lot to the school yard in the morning and assist walkers and bussers at dismissal. The traffic that comes in and out of our yard is incredible during arrival and dismissal. This includes both parents/guardians and buses. I am wondering how the presence of traffic lights would affect the flow and if this concern is already something the council is keeping in mind.

Thank you, Kate Smith

From:	lisarmunoz@aol.com
Sent:	Monday, September 25, 2023 12:00 PM
То:	councilors
Subject:	Downtown Traffic Lights

Good Afternoon,

Unfortunately I have not been able to attend the recent meetings in regards to the traffic in downtown and to express my concerns.

I live at 31 Butler Street which as you know is right downtown. My concern with the proposed changes is the potential for increasing traffic in our residential neighborhood. Is there a way to try and deter people trying to bypass any new lights with signage, one way streets, speed bumps, etc. We already get a far amount of traffic that comes through the neighborhood at fast speeds trying to avoid the downtown area and can only imagine it will get worse.

We have so many people that walk this neighborhood, kids walk to school, etc. that I fear for their safety.

Thank you for your time & consideration.

Lisa Munoz 31 Butler Street S. Berwick 603-674-9574

From:	Amy Drauschke <saeahfrances215@gmail.com></saeahfrances215@gmail.com>
Sent:	Monday, September 25, 2023 11:56 AM
То:	councilors
Subject:	Traffic Lights

Dear South Berwick Town Council,

I am writing to share my support for the installation of traffic lights in downtown South Berwick and the intersection of Main St. and Rt. 236. As a nearly 20-year community member, I have seen the drastic increase in traffic passing through our town, causing major delays and dangerous situations for drivers. I lived for 12 years on Academy Street and witnessed the constant flow of traffic past my house due to drivers avoiding the intersection of Main and 236 because it was so difficult and slow to make a turn onto Main Street and proceed through the town square. The traffic going in and out of Berwick Academy, Great Works School and Central School create a complete nightmare downtown every weekday morning and afternoon. I have missed doctors appointments at the York Hospital medical building on Portland Ave. as a result and I have been nearly hit multiple times as a pedestrian walking across Main Street in front of the intersection of that street. I have two teen drivers in my family who I fear won't have the experience to avoid accidents in either location.

It is high time we stop trying to hold onto the "historic charm" of downtown at the expense of safety for our residents.

I fully support traffic lights being installed in South Berwick.

Thank you,

Amy Drauschke 11 Beaver Dam Road South Berwick, Maine

From:	Mike Conlon <mconlonx@yahoo.com></mconlonx@yahoo.com>
Sent:	Monday, September 25, 2023 11:49 AM
То:	councilors
Subject:	Downtown traffic light

Saw that there was a meeting - sorry, could not attend.

I'm all for a traffic light directly downtown, at 4/236 split. Would not oppose another one at the other 4/236 intersection, by the Church.

Lived in S. Berwick: 7 years Lived in S. Maine, driving through S. Berwick: 42 years

Thanks for your consideration.

Mike Conlon 60 High St.

From:	Deidre Randall, Peter E. Randall Publisher <deidre@perpublisher.com></deidre@perpublisher.com>
Sent:	Monday, September 25, 2023 11:42 AM
То:	councilors
Subject:	Traffic lights in downtown

Hello Respected Councilors,

I am writing to express my concern for the suggested installation of traffic lights at the intersection downtown. My family and I enjoy the downtown businesses and the ease of parking to enjoy them, and if the parking spaces are taken from the downtown it will change the character of our town. Right now it feels like a small town.

We were not able to attend the recent meeting, but we are now surprised to discover that such a huge decision affecting our downtown - the very character of the town - can be made by our Town Council with little comment from residents. I think another meeting for public comment should be held and more publicity to let residents know what's at stake.

Such a change will affect property values in the town, and it's not something we can reverse if it doesn't achieve the desired affect of handling downtown traffic. This traffic seems to be worse in the summer with tourism. Is it such a large year round problem that we need a major change to our downtown streets?

If there is more to share with the town about the traffic issue, **please hold another meeting and make it clear what is at stake.** 

Sincerely, Deidre Randall Peter E. Randall Publisher 603-205-0552 cell 603-431-5667 deidre@perpublisher.com deidre.randall@me.com

5 Greenleaf Woods Drive Suite 102 Portsmouth, NH 03801 http://www.perpublisher.com

From: Sent: To: Subject: Kristina Wiggins <wigginout08@gmail.com> Monday, September 25, 2023 11:40 AM councilors Traffic Light

Hello -

I am writing in support of traffic lights especially at the downtown intersection of 236 and route 4. At this point, during certain times of the day the traffic makes driving through time consuming not to mention dangerous (especially if you are taking a left). Additionally, many people cut through the neighborhood by the firehouse creating another high traffic area.

I believe a traffic light would increase safety and efficiency. Thank you for your time Kristina Wiggins 14 Bittersweet Ln

From: Sent: To: Subject: Karla Kyle <sthbrwckk@gmail.com> Monday, September 25, 2023 11:28 AM Mallory Cook Traffic lights

Hello, Mallory. I think traffic lights are a good idea. I like the plans that were posted on the site .

Thank you.

Karla Kyle 17 Earl's Road

From:	Perrin Chick <pchick@mmsa.org></pchick@mmsa.org>
Sent:	Monday, September 25, 2023 11:14 AM
То:	Perrin Chick; councilors
Subject:	We need traffic lights

I'm sorry I was not able to attend the meeting last week. I do appreciate the ability to write emails. I would ike to take a moment to share my thoughts. I do believe South Berwick needs at least one if not several traffic lights in town.

I literally have anxiety attacks every time my 16-year-old needs to leave the house and drive herself to school or to work. The left-hand turns in town are nearly impossible for me as an experienced driver to navigate and are extremely stressful for our younger drivers. I am shocked that we don't have daily accidents in this town. There is so much traffic going through town these days that we desperately need a way to slow it down enough so that traffic is predictable and safer to navigate.

Please reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns. My phone number is 603-498-9897. I live in Old Mill neighborhood.

Perrin chick

From:	Gabriel Irvine-McDermott <gabriel.irvinemcdermott@gmail.com></gabriel.irvinemcdermott@gmail.com>
Sent:	Monday, September 25, 2023 11:14 AM
То:	Mallory Cook; Dawn Moreau
Subject:	Downtown Traffic Solutions

Hello,

My name is Gabriel Irvine-McDermott and I live at 75 Main St. in South Berwick.

I would like to share my strong support for a temporary traffic light at the two intersections in question to see if permanent lights actually fix the traffic problems in town.

While I think the traffic lights may be a long term solution, the sheer amount of traffic going through town at the few short problematic times of day may cancel out the light's impact, but we would not know this until it was too late if we do not try out the traffic light solution first.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Respectfully, Gabriel Irvine-McDermott

From:	Wallace Mills <wallace.mills207@gmail.com></wallace.mills207@gmail.com>
Sent:	Monday, September 25, 2023 11:11 AM
То:	councilors
Subject:	Traffic Lights

I support having traffic lights in downtown at both Main Street in Portland Street as well as the intersection by Route 236 and Main Street near the Cumberland Farms.

These are needed to both slow down traffic in town as well as create better traffic flow through the routes that we have. Having traffic lights with controlled crosswalks will also make it easier for pedestrians to cross when walking around downtown. The loss of parking for the businesses is negligible, considering the improved traffic flow, safety for pedestrians, and reduction in traffic on the side roads.

They should have been installed many decades ago.

Wallace Mills 22 Chestnut Dr South Berwick

From:	Dawn Moreau
Sent:	Monday, September 25, 2023 11:09 AM
То:	Elizabeth Irvine-McDermott; Mallory Cook
Subject:	RE: Traffic light downtown

Thank you for your response. I will share this with all of Town Council.

Thank you,

## Dawn Moreau

Executive Assistant to Administration Town of South Berwick

dmoreau@sbmaine.us Direct Line: (207) 384-3017

Office Hours: Monday- Thursday 8:30-4:30

180 Main Street South Berwick, ME 03908

From: Elizabeth Irvine-McDermott <elizabeth.irvinemcdermott@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2023 11:02 AM
To: Mallory Cook <mcook@sbmaine.us>; Dawn Moreau <dmoreau@sbmaine.us>
Subject: Traffic light downtown

Good morning, Mallory and Dawn.

We are very strongly in favor of the idea to install a temporary traffic light downtown, as a trial run, to see if that will in fact solve our traffic flow issues. We believe it is the best option at this point -- to explore the impact a light will have downtown, without the financial investment and permanent alteration of our downtown area, without greater certainty it will actually achieve our goals.

Thank you, Elizabeth Irvine-McDermott and Timothy Szlachetka 35 Wadleigh Lane

From: Sent: To: Subject: Amy Duquette <amyduquette5@gmail.com> Monday, September 25, 2023 11:08 AM councilors Traffic lights

Hi,

My opinion on the downtown traffic lights is to do what was recommended by the experts in the study conducted.

:)

Thank you, Amy Duquette

From: Sent: To: Subject: Dawn Moreau Monday, September 25, 2023 10:06 AM sandyagrafiotis@gmail.com; Mallory Cook RE: traffic lights

Thank you, Sandy.

I will make sure all of Town Council receives your thoughts.

Thank you,

Dawn Moreau

Executive Assistant to Administration Town of South Berwick

dmoreau@sbmaine.us Direct Line: (207) 384-3017

Office Hours: Monday- Thursday 8:30-4:30

180 Main Street South Berwick, ME 03908

-----Original Message-----From: sandy agrafiotis <sandyagrafiotis@gmail.com> Sent: Monday, September 25, 2023 9:59 AM To: Mallory Cook <mcook@sbmaine.us> Cc: Dawn Moreau <dmoreau@sbmaine.us> Subject: traffic lights

To the Town Council:

I am in favor of installing temporary traffic lights. I understand that a full-on traffic light system is very expensive and requires maintenance and periodic upgrading, so we would benefit for some preliminary testing. Once permanent lights are installed I expect that removing them if they don't accomplish the intended purpose would be very difficult both financially and politically.

Regards,

Sandy Agrafiotis 548 Emery's Bridge Road

From:Michael Lassel <mlassel51@gmail.com>Sent:Monday, September 25, 2023 9:06 AMTo:Mallory CookSubject:traffic light

Hi Mallory, we are out of town today. I would like to express my voice for a traffic light in the town center for the simple reason that it will allow pedestrians to cross the street without the fear of being run over. It will go a long way in helping improve the walkability of the town center which will improve the business access and support growth. The traffic lights can be controlled using time of day to allow traffic to flow at peak hours similar to a traffic guard. This can also be done by a camera that reads the line of cars in each direction and adjusts the signal duration accordingly.

Thank you for all the hard work you and the Council invest in improving the town. The listening process is spot on.

Best regards Mike Lassel

From:	john klossner <klossner@earthlink.net></klossner@earthlink.net>
Sent:	Monday, September 25, 2023 8:40 AM
То:	Mallory Cook; Dawn Moreau
Subject:	Downtown traffic lights

Good morning,

I am writing with my (hopefully brief) thoughts on the proposed traffic lights in 2 downtown locations.

- It has been my experience (my wife owned a shop downtown - I became an unplanned traffic observer) that the traffic problems in that area only occur for brief (30 - 45 minutes) periods during the morning and afternoon rush hours during the week, and the Friday and Sunday summer runs. In the past those brief periods were manned by a traffic cop who handled the situation well.

- We have a unique situation in the downtown where 3 schools open and close at the same time, including 2 private schools where a sizable portion of the students (along with parents, faculty and buses) drive personal vehicles.

- I'm concerned that adding the proposed traffic lights might create problems at other downtown intersections. (There has been a cry to place a traffic light at the Norton Street intersection.) With the new light at the route 91 / 236 intersection, that would be a run of 3 traffic lights in a very short sequence. What will that do to traffic flow - will traffic stopped at the Cumberland Farms light be backed up (possible on a Friday in summer) to the route 91 light?

- On an unrelated note, as someone who lives on a side street in the downtown, we witness numerous cars using our neighborhoods as shortcuts. These drivers - as well as drivers downtown during the rush periods - speed, run stop signs, and drive unsafely when there is considerable pedestrian traffic in the area. The lack of police presence and enforcement is a problem.

I'm not knee-jerk against traffic lights, I just want to make the best decision to deal with traffic flow on roads that were designed for a smaller town. I would like to have a test run with the lights to see how that affects the traffic.

Thank you for your time,

John Klossner 37 Highland Avenue 207.807.4498

From: Sent: To: Subject: Christy Woods <christymwoods@gmail.com> Monday, September 25, 2023 8:16 AM Mallory Cook Traffic lights

Hello Mallory,

I support the idea of temporary traffic lights in our town to test the results.

Thank you for the request for input.

Best regards, Christy Woods 34 Union St South Berwick

From:Dawn MoreauSent:Monday, September 25, 2023 8:05 AMTo:Rachel Schumacher; Mallory CookSubject:RE: I support the traffic lights

Thank you, Rachel. I will let the Town Council know.

Thank you,

## Dawn Moreau

Executive Assistant to Administration Town of South Berwick

dmoreau@sbmaine.us Direct Line: (207) 384-3017

Office Hours: Monday- Thursday 8:30-4:30

180 Main Street South Berwick, ME 03908

From: Rachel Schumacher <rachelzschumacher@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2023 7:26 AM
To: Mallory Cook <mcook@sbmaine.us>
Cc: Dawn Moreau <dmoreau@sbmaine.us>
Subject: I support the traffic lights

Dear Mallory,

I support the installation of two traffic lights (at the intersection of Rt. 236 and Rt. 4, and at the square in town). I also support the recommendation of installing temporary lights at these locations as a trial run to be sure they accomplish the goals of easing traffic congestion at these two intersections.

Sincerely,

Rachel Schumacher

From: Sent: To: Subject: Bob and Karen Eger <br/>bkeger@comcast.net> Monday, September 25, 2023 6:25 AM councilors traffic study

Councilors,

The option lacking in the Sebago report was the use of human traffic control. While I know the town has had difficulty filling those positions I would suggest there may be solutions to that problem. The first and most obvious is the classic economic one to increase the pay for that position so that it does attract candidates. If this poses a problem with police union contracts then take the position out of the police department. There is no need for a traffic controller to be a law enforcement officer. If that still a problem with other employee contracts then perhaps the traffic control could be contracted out, though I can hardly believe that I am suggesting such a thing. Given that the cost of signaling the intersections is in excess of 3 million dollars, not including any anticipated operating and maintenance costs, that would pay for a lot of salary. It is my belief that human traffic control works better than lights as cars wouldn't be sitting waiting for a change of light when the intersection is empty, would be able to better respond to pedestrians, maintain a friendlier small town feel to the village and allow for the retention of downtown parking all while giving drivers and pedestrians the sense of safety that many now feel to be lacking. A deeper look at this option would seem to be warranted. I don't want to further delay progress on the traffic situation but it certainly appears that this option has not been given much consideration.

Bob Eger 56 Warren Pond Rd South Berwick

From:	Maya Bogh <maya@greatnorthernbuilders.info></maya@greatnorthernbuilders.info>
Sent:	Sunday, September 24, 2023 8:33 PM
То:	Mallory Cook; John James; Jeff Minihan; Jessica Cyr; Melissa Costella
Subject:	Traffic light recommendations

Dear town councilors,

Thank you for your service to our town. I greatly appreciate it. Please, please, please, implement the recommendations for traffic lights per the studies you have received. We live at 8 Agamenticus Rd and traffic downtown is unsafe and chaotic. There is nothing 'small town' charming about a lack of safety and order and that is what occurs on a daily basis in the congested downtown area. This town is growing, rapidly. Please implement safety and security now and for future generations by following the recommendations for traffic lights, etc. so that we can truly have a charming 'small town' downtown - one that is safe, and that moves traffic efficiently through town center. Thank you.

	Kind Regards,
	Maya Bogh, CGR President
×	<u>maya@greatnorthernbuilders.info</u> <u>www.greatnorthernbuilders.info</u> m. 207-615-0479
	Do Business with an NAHB member
	×××

From: Sent: To: Subject: Ryan Mayo <mayord9@comcast.net> Sunday, September 24, 2023 8:32 PM Mallory Cook Traffic lights

Hello my name is Ryan Mayo, I'm sorry I couldn't attend the traffic light meeting in person but I had to work. I have lived in south Berwick since 2020 and I lived in Berwick before that since 2014. The traffic situation has always been a huge problem and I feel like the the traffic light solution that was recommended by the traffic flow study is really the best path forward! Thanks for your time Ryan Mayo

8 Quamphegan Road South Berwick ME, 03908 207-357-9177 mayord9@comcast.net

From:	Arlene HODGDON <arlhodg@comcast.net></arlhodg@comcast.net>
Sent:	Sunday, September 24, 2023 8:04 PM
То:	councilors
Subject:	Traffic Info

For what it is worth I have been a resident on Portland Street since 1961. In that time I have seen the traffic volume increase exponentionally to the point that every work day the traffic gets backed up all the way up Portland Street, both morning and afternoon. On Sundays during the summer the traffic starts backing up around 11am all the way up to the golf course without ever a break in traffic until 6 - 7 pm. I am assuming that you can realize how annoying it is to sit outside on our patio and listen to the incressant engines idling with never a break.until 6 to 7 pm in the evening.

Over the years we have had our hopes raised each time that a traffic study has been done hoping for relief from all that engine noise. After awhile we were conditioned to expect no result and stopped responding.

I might also add that after Portland Street was widened in the 1970's, the DOT was willing and able to put a by-pass in that would circumvent the downtown and reconnect where Wally's vegetable stand is located on Rte 236. At that time the road would of been constructed on undeveloped land and an old railroad bed. That land is no longer available. The reason it wasn't was based on the negativety of one or two merchants who were concerned that they would lose business! Just the opposite happened and we have been left to suffer that decision.

I surely did not intend for this to be so lengthy and apologize for taking up so much of your time. I will end by saying that I think a traffic light at both intersections is a GREAT idea!

Sincerely, Arlene Hodgdon 104 Portland Street

From:	Eric Shepard <animalrottie@yahoo.com></animalrottie@yahoo.com>
Sent:	Friday, September 22, 2023 5:04 PM
То:	councilors
Subject:	Down town traffic

Dear Council members,

Would it make more sense to fix a problem on Norton Street before a traffic light down town? People take Norton Street to avoid downtown traffic. A right turn only sign between 3 - 6pm would allow traffic to flow easier to Berwick and lower Main. I've noticed it's almost always difficult to head to Lower Main without waiting for an extended period of time.

Thank you for the consideration.

Eric and Heather Shepard Main Street South Berwick

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

From: Sent: To: Subject: freekenney75@gmail.com Friday, September 22, 2023 3:59 PM councilors Traffic in South Berwick

Hello:

I am a South Berwick native who moved back to town in 2017 after many years living all over the world. I live at 4 Vine Street, the first house on the Street from Rt 236. I would like to add my voice to those in favor of Traffic Lights and perhaps other measures at Main and RT 4 and Main and Rt 236. We need to act now! When I grew up here in the 60s and 70s, there were less than 4,000 people here and I could drive my grandfather's tractor down Main Street hauling a hay wagon at age 13. Those days are gone, we are not a rural community these days and need to manage as the sub-urban area we are becoming.

Additionally, I recently emailed the Town Manager with the following and would appreciate your feedback:

- People take their lives in hand when trying to cross Rt 236 to Academy Street. I
  recently watched a woman pushing a stroller with a little kid in tow wait for a long time
  before traffic would slow enough for her to safely cross. Cars do not stop for
  pedestrians because there is no crosswalk in spite of a sidewalk entrance from Academy
  Street. I walk my dog and cycle and often experience the same thing. I have seen many
  near misses as people struggle to cross safely. What do we need to do to get a crosswalk
  and flashing light to allow safe passage similar to that which exists on Main Street?
- 2. Since the installation of the speed table on Liberty Street traffic speeds on that street seem a bit better. I don't think the volume of traffic is much different, people merely speed off of 236 onto Vine, and then slow down on Liberty. I can't tell you the number of times I have been nearly hit backing from my driveway or even going to my mailbox. There are children across the street that also are at risk. What will it take to put a speed table on the beginning of Vine Street?
- 3. What is happening with the Vine Street Bridge committee? I would like to become involved to look at alternatives that might be more affordable than the current plan for a covered bridge. I have extensive Program and Project management experience as well as management experience.

Warm Regards Daniel Kenney 4 Vine Street South Berwick, Maine 03908 www.danielkenneyguitars.com

Sutton, Jessica < Jessica.Sutton@protective.com>
Friday, September 22, 2023 3:48 PM
councilors
South Berwick Traffic Lights

Good afternoon,

I am emailing you in response to your call for town input on the traffic light proposal for downtown. I appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback as I am unable to attend town council meetings. I moved to South Berwick from Portsmouth NH over 17 years ago to provide my children a safe place to grow up. Not once have I ever felt like we live in a small town or have a small town feel. Our first home was in Aggie Estates which felt cluttered and noisy. We moved to Great Hill Rd 8 years ago so we could enjoy more of the "country life feel" in the rural quiet setting which has been completely flipped upside down since the town approved the 6 house subdivision directly across the street as well as the multi-house subdivision farther down the road. If you want the small town feel then stop approving subdivisions. I know that's unlikely, but we can't keep grasping for something that doesn't exist here and will not exist here with our housing boom and lack of roadway infrastructure connecting NH and Berwick residents to the Shipyard or the tourists to 95.

The narrative of the conversation needs to shift from congestion solutions to a safety solution. I don't grocery shop at Nature's Way or visit our local restaurants because I don't want to take the left downtown. As a parent of two new drivers, there has been nothing more terrifying than knowing my children are driving through downtown or pulling in and out of the high school. We owe it to our community and the businesses in our downtown area to provide a safer solution. At this point, the lights seem to be the only solution. The light won't ease the traffic congestion but it will make it safer and that is what the objective should be.

Thanks! Phil & Jessica Sutton 14 Great Hill Rd

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From: Sent: To: Subject: Janet Hagan <edhagan299@gmail.com> Friday, September 22, 2023 2:39 PM Mallory Cook Traffic lights

I like the idea of putting up temporary lights to see how it affects traffic.

From:	Linda Bradley <samspike@yahoo.com></samspike@yahoo.com>
Sent:	Wednesday, September 20, 2023 7:19 PM
То:	Mallory Cook
Subject:	Linda Bradley, traffic study

Hi, My name is Linda Bradley. I live on Emerys Bridge Road and have lived in South Berwick for more than 60 years. Back in the 60's, when I lived on Jewett Avenue, we had the same traffic back-up problem on holidays and we dealt with it. My mom would sit out there and wave to the cars going by that were using Jewett as a detour. I realize that after 60 years that things are going to change and South Berwick is no longer a town where "everybody knows your name" and with a little more patience from people would not need a traffic light or a traffic circle. Thanknyou for allowing me to voice my opinion.

Linda Bradley 400 Emerys Bridge Raod South Berwick, ME 03908 samspike@yahoo@yahoo.com

From:	Ken hoyt <klhoyt11@gmail.com></klhoyt11@gmail.com>
Sent:	Wednesday, September 20, 2023 8:19 AM
То:	councilors
Subject:	Hoyt, Kenneth 9/19 public hearing comments

Councilors,

The traffic problem in South Berwick has been a problem for many years. I would say the "shipyard traffic" has been an issue since I was a baby. The issue was never dealt with properly and has now compounded to emergency vehicles having issues responding, 25 minute wait to get my kids to school, and dreading going to the town hall. I've heard many people say "lights will make south Berwick lose its small town feel". To this I would say the traffic jams make south Berwick lose its small town feel. I've heard people say "we can't lose parking spaces downtown" to this I say, there's like 3. And the pizza restaurant makes most their money doing deliveries anyway. Please get lights or a roundabout in downtown as well as the Portland/236 intersection!! Kenneth and Julie Hoyt

From:	Julie Meneely <shelseeker@comcast.net></shelseeker@comcast.net>
Sent:	Tuesday, September 19, 2023 6:57 PM
То:	councilors
Subject:	Meneely, Julianna 9/19 Public Hearing Comments

I just want to thank you for your work regarding the town's traffic concerns and to tell you how embarrassed I was about the lack of turnout tonight! I currently have Covid, couldn't attend but was there on Zoom. I do think that you should consider those of us that live in the downtown areas; we are the ones that are faced with the traffic day after day, minute after minute. Our votes should be considered more heavily than those that just pass through occasionally from another area in town. We live this day and night!

Again I vote for traffic lights because doing nothing is not acceptable any longer. The small town of So Berwick is no longer small when it has a major highway consuming it.

Sincerely, Julianna Meneely 175 Portland St

PS. My husband David Meneely is also in favor of lights

From:	Julie Meneely <shelseeker@comcast.net></shelseeker@comcast.net>
Sent:	Tuesday, September 19, 2023 5:05 PM
То:	councilors
Subject:	Meneely, Julianna 9/19 Public hearing comments

I am ill and unable to come in person tonight. With the volume of traffic our town faces daily I feel that things cannot stay the same; so I would vote for traffic lights as they seem simpler than a roundabout.

It is very difficult to turn left onto Rt 236 from Rt 4, a light would give these drivers a chance. Of course, if drivers were going the recommended 25mph (which they are not) these drivers would also have a chance to pull out and go left. We still need speed limit adherence and enforcement!

Sincerely, Julianna Meneely 175 Portland St So Berwick, ME 603-978-2855

From:	Deanna Lewis <deannamayolewis@gmail.com></deannamayolewis@gmail.com>
Sent:	Tuesday, September 19, 2023 4:58 PM
То:	councilors
Subject:	Traffic Lights/Roundabouts

Dear South Berwick Town Councilors,

As residents of 120 Main St, next to the First Baptist Church, we are very concerned with how a light at 236/Main will affect the 6/7 houses and the First Baptist Church, right in that vicinity. I also wonder if we need both that one as well as the one right downtown.

It is nearly impossible to back out of our driveway during certain times of day as it is and we fear that it could be dangerous for our neighbors and us to try and back out going towards NH.

We would be more open to a roundabout at the 236/main intersection but not sure that is a sound solution. If we had to "vote" we would be for the light downtown, against at 236/Main.

Thank you for your hard work and consideration.

Best regards,

Deanna & Mitch Lewis

120 Main St

South Berwick

From: Sent: To: Subject: Melissa Costella Tuesday, September 19, 2023 11:24 AM Mallory Cook Fwd: Traffic Meeting this evening

From: Tamre Steinhauer <tdsteinhauer@comcast.net> Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2023 11:21:31 AM To: Melissa Costella <mcostella@sbmaine.us> Subject: Traffic Meeting this evening

Good morning, Councilor Costella! I am sorry I cannot attend the public hearing this evening. I am giving you my two cents in the hopes it can be shared or at least viewed by the Council. I think we need lights in town at the intersection in question. It would be the safest for pedestrians, and while it would not SPEED traffic through town, it would control it a bit, and give people turning onto 236 a fighting chance.

While we may lose a few parking spaces, the lack of current parking has not been an issue, in my opinion. We have lost many businesses over the years with the parking we have now, so there are other reasons businesses have come and gone. In fact, there are quite a few of us who don't frequent the businesses that are in town because traffic is so bad. If an effort was made to have better signage directing people where to park, that would go a long way in making South Berwick a more friendly downtown for walkers and people trying to support the businesses.

I oppose the idea of a rotary, as that will lead to one constant flow of traffic, and pedestrians will not stand a chance at crossing any of the streets. And, if they ARE able to cross, that will hold up traffic in all directions. Large trucks would have difficulty negotiating a mini-rotary, and I think it would create more issues for the traffic corridor.

Thank you,

Tamre Steinhauer

From:	William Powell <powellwe2@gmail.com></powellwe2@gmail.com>
Sent:	Tuesday, September 19, 2023 9:55 AM
То:	councilors
Subject:	Traffic Change Input for Meeting

Good morning,

I fully support traffic lights (signals) at both proposed locations. Losing sidewalks for a traffic circle doesn't make much sense, and long term there is no room for a two lane circle. We need traffic lights.

Daily I see close calls between vehicles and pedestrians especially during the school year.

Please move forward with the traffic light plan. Thanks.

Will Powell Ross Street 207-703-4708

From:	Michelle Do <michelle.s.do@gmail.com></michelle.s.do@gmail.com>
Sent:	Tuesday, September 19, 2023 9:05 AM
То:	councilors
Subject:	Do, Michelle (9/19 Public Hearing Comments)

My name is Michelle Do and I've lived at 30 Buttonwood Road for 15 years. I support the installation of traffic lights at Portland/Main St. and Maine St./236. Lights would improve safety and traffic flow through our town.

Thank you.

Michelle Do

From:	Jon St. Pierre <jstpierre@underwoodengineers.com></jstpierre@underwoodengineers.com>
Sent:	Thursday, September 14, 2023 12:58 PM
То:	Mallory Cook; John James; Jeff Minihan; Jessica Cyr; Melissa Costella
Cc:	Tim Pellerin; Jennifer Janelle
Subject:	RE: St. Pierre, Jon; 9/19 Public Hearing Comments

Let's try it again with my address this time.



Client service and teamwork for over 40 years!

Jon St. Pierre, P.E. (ME) Resident Project Representative Underwood Engineers, Inc. Office 603-230-9898 www.underwoodengineers.com

From: Jon St. Pierre
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2023 12:55 PM
To: mcook@sbmaine.us; jjames@sbmaine.us; jminihan@sbmaine.us; jcyr@sbmaine.us; mcostella@sbmaine.us
Cc: tpellerin@sbmaine.us; Jennifer Janelle <jjanelle@sbmaine.us>
Subject: FW: St. Pierre, Jon; 9/19 Public Hearing Comments



Client service and teamwork for over 40 years!

Jon St. Pierre, P.E. (ME) Resident Project Representative Underwood Engineers, Inc. Office 603-230-9898 www.underwoodengineers.com

From: Jon St. Pierre
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2023 12:49 PM
To: councilors@sbmaine.us.; mcook@sbmaine.us; jjames@sbmaine.us; //jminihan@sbmaine.us; //jcyr@sbmaine.us;
//mcostella@sbmaine.us
Cc: //tpellerin@sbmaine.us; Jennifer Janelle <jjanelle@sbmaine.us>
Subject: St. Pierre, Jon; 9/19 Public Hearing Comments

South Berwick Town Council,

My preferred scenario for downtown traffic changes is "Traffic lights at Portland/Main & Main/Rt 236".

Thank you for your work on this.

Best, Jon 49 Junction Road South Berwick, Maine



Client service and teamwork for over 40 years!

Jon St. Pierre, P.E. (ME) Resident Project Representative Underwood Engineers, Inc. Office 603-230-9898 www.underwoodengineers.com