

Town council gets update on speed bumps

BY SHWETA KRISHNAN

The mayor of North High Shoals updated the council on Nov. 18 about six proposed speed bumps to be installed around town in hopes of slowing traffic.

The proposed locations are as follows: one on Plantation Road, two on Jefferson Road, one on the road coming into Cole Springs Road, one across from the batting cage on Hillsboro Road, and one crossing the hill above the park on Hillsboro Road.

Mayor Stephen Goad explained how he and the town's handyman, David Lawrence, went out and white lined the location of all six speed bumps on the asphalt.

"We're going through the

guy that's estimating them to be sure that we're in compliance with proper distances from stop signs, intersections, that type of thing," he explained.

He also said the town will not need to buy a lot of the materials for the speed bumps because they already have a stock. The only materials needed are sign posts and screws.

Council members Eric Carlson, Eric Wright and Fred Johnson attended the monthly meeting, and Hilda Kurtz joined via Zoom; Meagan Cundiff was absent.

North High Shoals resident Joie Westman asked during the public comment time if there were any updates or con-

trols in place regarding the flow of truck traffic.

The road was "really bad" this season, said Westman, who lives near one of the proposed speed bumps.

Goad said there are a lot of "thoughts in place," including the fact that the deputy cannot put a radar permit because of the slope of the road.

"My intent that I have voiced a few times is to try to take some ordinance action and put signs up when the bridge closes, and then be in contact with the local potential violators," he said during the meeting.

The mayor noted that the project to repair the bridge on Ga. 186 over the Apalachee River keeps getting put off, so

controls have been delayed.

"The last that we have heard — we have been here for a year now — is that there has to be an agreement between the post office and Georgia DOT because the post office leases the property even though they don't own it.

"There's some agreement between those two entities that hasn't been worked out in order to start the bridge project," he explained after the meeting.

Shweta Krishnan is a Fink Fellow in the Cox Institute's Journalism Writing Lab at the University of Georgia.

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Let's keep our public parks safe

I am writing to raise awareness about an alarming incident that occurred at the Oconee County Veterans Park Dog Park on Saturday, Nov. 23.

My dog, Rue, was rushed to the UGA Veterinary Hospital for seizures and tremors.

She was unable to walk. After a terrifying ordeal, the veterinarians concluded she had consumed marijuana, likely dropped or discarded

in the fenced-in dog park area. Thankfully, Rue has recovered, but this experience was both heartbreaking and preventable.

The Animal Poison Control Center reported a 765% increase in calls about marijuana poisoning in pets in 2019.

Dogs, unlike humans, have more cannabinoid receptors in their brains, making marijuana intoxication much more dangerous for them.

To all park visitors: please be mindful of where you discard items, such as marijuana

remnants, gum and candies containing harmful substances like xylitol.

A moment of carelessness could lead to a life-threatening situation for pets or children.

Our parks are spaces for joy and safety, not tragedy. Please, pick up after yourselves and be responsible with anything potentially harmful.

Let's work together to keep our shared spaces safe for all.

—Andrea Wellnitz
Statham



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