

October 1, 2018

Dear Members of the Board of Selectmen -

I represent a group of Johnson Elementary School parents who have a fundraising idea, which requires the approval of Natick's Board of Selectmen as well as other groups serving the public's safety. We apologize for the short notice of this request, which only came about from discussions among parents since the school year started.

The idea centers around a Halloween fundraiser, like "The Saxonville Haunted Yards" (<http://saxonvillehauntedyards.com>), which I personally experienced with my daughters (then aged 4 and 6) in Framingham, last year. I grew up with similar experiences. With nothing like it in Natick I jumped at the chance to bring them to the Saxonville Haunted Yards; it was great fun for my children and those from neighboring communities who came out in generous numbers.

We are requesting that High Street be blocked between Nelson and Atherton Streets (as we have done for the past several years for our annual block party) on Saturday, October 27th between 6.30-9.00pm.

We envisage that participants would enter the Natick Haunted yards on the Nelson Street end of High Street and finish at the Atherton Street side (where cider and doughnuts would be provided). Within that section of High Street several houses have agreed to host participants on their front yards where haunted experiences would be erected (with shade tents or similar).

In addition, other parents would roam this section of High Street dressed in costumes. Over the past two weeks the group of parents I represent solicited the affected residents of High Street, (between Nelson and Atherton Streets) to inform and answer questions and address concerns. See letter below. Now passed the deadline for feedback, we have not heard anything but support for the idea.

Dear Neighbors,

Happy Fall! I am writing you today to ask a favor. Based upon an event in Framingham, some of the folks in the neighborhood would like to put on a spook walk here on High St. The working title is "Nightmare on High St." The idea would be to erect tents and scary scenes in the streets and have assorted ghouls and goblins wander around. At the end would be donuts, coffee and a solicitation for a donation which would benefit Johnson Elementary. We are hoping to block the area of High St between Atherton and Nelson streets (the same as the block party) for a couple of ours on October 27th. If you are fine with blocking the street but do not want to risk people being on your yard please let me know. I'll put up police tape (It goes with the theme). Again, here is the ask:

To block the area between Atherton and Nelson Streets from 6:30-9:00 pm on October 27th.

Please contact me as soon as possible with any and all concerns and if you want to opt out. We will be writing a letter to the Board of Selectmen requesting the closure shortly.

Thank you for your consideration,

The "Saxonville" event occurs on a main road and as such required a police officer to be present to manage traffic. Despite High Street being a quiet road, we think it would be a good idea to ask that Natick PD be present to manage traffic issues as they could arise.

What we liked about "Saxonville" is that it is a fun way to raise money for a needy cause. Following the experience attendees gather for cider and doughnuts and were asked for a donation - as it states on their website "Admission is FREE, however DONATIONS will be gratefully accepted at the tour's end and will go to Potter Road Elementary School." I spoke with the organizers and learned more than \$1,000 is raised at the "Saxonville" event, each year. This is something we would seek to emulate in a "High Street in Natick" haunted yards experience.

Again, we appreciate the short nature of this request but please take into consideration that we represent Natick's only Title I school. Johnson has unique needs in the community and as parents of children at the school we are always looking for ways to help.

Sincerely,

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