

Memo

To: Town of Natick Board of Selectmen
From: M.Malone, Town Administrator
Date: December 9, 2018
Re: Recommendation of address change request of 377 Bishop Street, Framingham MA

The parcel at issue straddles the border of Framingham and Natick. I am recommending that the Board of Selectmen (Board) maintain its existing policy standard in evaluating address request changes – ensuring address changes are made with a focus on public safety issues. This means denying the petitioner’s request for the “Natick” address.

This matter was heard before the Safety Committee (hereinafter Committee) on May 30, 2017 (the petitioner was not present) and then again on October 2, 2018 (the petitioner was present). At both meetings the Committee determined that the address change request was not required to improve public safety responses to the property, and in both instances took no action on the request. Additionally, given discussions with staff members there is concern that deviation from the existing address change policy would mean preferential and financially advantageous address request changes (with no public safety need) will now be entertained.

Currently, requests for address changes are analyzed by the Committee from the lens of a first responder. The objective is to ensure the best response should assistance be needed. In this instance, modification of the property address would modify the current public safety response that has been deemed appropriate by the Committee. Specifically, the address change would trigger all 911 landline calls to be routed to Natick as the Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP). This would result in Natick being the primary responders for fire and police response. The closest Natick fire station to the parcel would be Station 4 (1.6 miles away), with an ambulance (currently 3.5 miles away). The closest Framingham fire station (Station 5) is .5 miles away from 377 Bishop and this station also houses an ambulance. Chief Hicks will be present to provide further context on the call routing issues.

Other related factors that you may want to consider in your deliberations include the following: (1) the property was purchased with a Framingham address; (2) the property owners are able to avail themselves of Natick community public services including Natick Public Schools (and clarification can be provided as needed to Town departments related to this address to ensure the family members are able to continue to utilize Natick’s community programs); and (3) if the Board is inclined to grant this address change request, it would be most helpful for the Board to articulate the new standard it will be utilizing to evaluate address modification requests, and require that this address fall into sequential order based upon the Natick addresses (currently, 28 Bishop is the highest property number in Natick).