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Town of Natick • Public Works

TO: Jonathan Freedman, Chair Select Board
Robert Rooney, Acting Town Administrator

FROM: Jeremy Marsette, P.E.
Director of Public Works

DATE: February 20, 2021
July 9, 2021 revised

SUBJECT: Nonesuch Drive and Frost Street
Public Street Acceptances

The Department is in receipt of the petition for public street acceptance received by the Select Board from the neighborhood including Nonesuch Drive and Frost Street. Both Nonesuch Drive and Frost Street currently receive municipal services for snow removal, sanitation collections, water supply and wastewater collection.

Nonesuch Drive is a relatively recent subdivision constructed through the Commonwealth's Subdivision Control Law, so would be eligible for the 'simplified' street acceptance process as allowed by Special Legislation granted to Natick by the Massachusetts General Court. This process would allow us to the subdivision plans for the roadway layout plans to record at the registry and helps minimize title research.

Frost Street is an older way (predating the Commonwealth's Subdivision Control Law) and would not be eligible for public acceptance through simplified procedures. Therefore, its acceptance would require field survey, preparation of layout plans, and additional title research.

The Department of Public Works previously submitted a capital request to fund preparation of layout plans to support public street acceptances townwide (these funds support the Board's goal to continue prudent public street acceptances townwide and in coordination with the Five Year Roadway Improvement Plan). If these capital funds are approved at the 2021 Spring Annual Town Meeting, we could use a small amount to prepare the necessary layout plans for Frost Street. *(The capital funds were appropriated at the 2021 Spring Annual Town Meeting)*

With the Board's concurrence and the advanced engineering/legal work that would be required, the earliest timeframe for public acceptance of these two roadways would be through the 2021 Fall Town Meeting. Attached is a 2017 guidance document regarding the public street acceptance process, copies are also available at the Select Board/TA's Office and on the Department's website. The memo provides more detail regarding the process, we are happy to discuss with the Board and petitioners at your convenience.