



Joan McNamara <jmcnamara@natickma.org>

Re: <TIME SENSITIVE> Moore St. sidewalk - Select Board meeting on potential location change

Kyle Garry <kpgarry@gmail.com>
To: Paul Joseph <pjoseph@natickma.org>
Cc: selectboard@natickma.org

Tue, Aug 2, 2022 at 9:37 PM

Dear Mr. Joseph,

Thank you for bringing this to our attention. While I understand that this email meets the legal requirement of 48 hours of advanced notice, I'm confused as to why the town is contemplating changes to plans that were communicated to residents months ago and after the project has already broken ground? Any issues with the plans could have been addressed between the date they were submitted and now, at any of the various town meetings that took place during that period. Instead, affected neighbors have very little notice to rearrange their busy summer schedules to make their case against changing these approved plans. Regardless, I'm sure that many of my neighbors will attend if available.

Besides my issue with how this potential change is being communicated and addressed by the board, I'd like to go on record to highlight my primary concern with this proposed change, which is that it will compromise the safety of pedestrians on Moore St. and Sylvester Rd. The corner intersection between those two streets is extremely dangerous, even with the roads in their current condition, as cars cutting through the neighborhood to either the High School or other destinations take that corner at a high rate of speed, and have to deal with compromised visibility due to a fence and a large tree near the intersection. As such, neighbors have previously requested a stop sign be placed at that corner to protect pedestrians, particularly the children that wait for the bus at that corner; however, that request was denied. There is currently a continuous sidewalk that runs from Sylvester onto Moore on the west side of the street. Continuing the sidewalk on that side of the street would allow pedestrians a clear and safe path to navigate the intersection. Moving the sidewalk, on the other hand, would require that pedestrians cross the street immediately following the intersection to navigate the sidewalk on the other side. This would leave them vulnerable to vehicles accelerating around that corner at a high rate of speed on our newly-paved roads. It was my impression that maintaining continuous sidewalks in all possible instances was a priority for this project, and this proposed change would clearly violate that objective.

I fully understand and appreciate that the location of sidewalks and the resulting loss of yard area has been a major concern for all neighbors, myself included; however, I believe that safety should win out. And as I stated previously, I have a fundamental issue with how and when this change is being proposed and debated in front of the board.

I am working to free up my schedule to attend tomorrow's meeting in person, and at a minimum, I will join via Zoom to contribute to the healthy discussion.

Sincerely,

Kyle Garry
20 Moore St.

On Tue, Aug 2, 2022 at 11:21 AM Paul Joseph <pjoseph@natickma.org> wrote:

Dear Moore St. Neighbors,

I am writing to let you know that we recently decided to hold an additional public discussion regarding the location of the planned sidewalk on Moore St.

The meeting will be TOMORROW evening, August 3rd; the estimated timing of this topic is between 6:45-7:15pm and specific details, including a link to the Agenda, can be found here: <https://www.natickma.gov/Calendar.aspx?EID=9431&month=8&year=2022&day=2&calType=0>

This agenda item was added with more than the legally required 48 hours advance public notice online; however, knowing that the interest in this topic is so strong, and that most residents aren't monitoring the public meeting calendar regularly, we wanted to make sure that abutting property owners were aware of this change.

As follow-up to a healthy, but incomplete, discussion at last week's Select Board meeting, we are providing additional time to hear from affected community members as well as the Town Engineer and fellow Board members as the Board considers possibly re-locating the sidewalk from the west side (odd # houses) of Moore St to the east side (even #s) of Moore St.

Your additional feedback during this discussion and deliberation is welcome and encouraged. If you are not able to attend either in person or via Zoom, please know that emails sent to "selectboard@natickma.org" are regarded as public documents and will be included as Select Board correspondence and factored into the Board decision-making process if received in advance of the public meeting.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Paul

Paul R. Joseph, Chair
Natick Select Board