



TOWN OF SOUTHBOROUGH FIRE DEPARTMENT

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December 1, 2009

Mr. Salvatore M. Giorlandino, Chair
Board of Selectmen
Town of Southborough
17 Common Street
Southborough, MA 01772

Dear Mr. Giorlandino,

I am writing to your Board regarding the proposed modifications to Main Street which were recently discussed at a Public Forum held during a Selectmen's Meeting. Specifically, I have concerns regarding the section between near the Town Common.

After public input and discussion, the preferred alternative to explore was an option, which allows for two 11' travel lanes, and two four foot shoulders, which would accommodate bicyclists, and snow storage during the winter months. After reviewing the proposal it appears as if this configuration will not allow for any parking along the southerly side of Main Street in the Common area.

The maximum width of vehicles is 8'6". If vehicles are allowed to park on the south side of Main Street in this area given the above configuration, and providing the vehicle was only one foot off of the curb, it would allow for 1'3" between parked vehicles and passing vehicles, allowing for one foot between a vehicle traveling westbound and the Common's stone wall. This negates the shoulder area which is set aside for bicycles. A tractor trailer traveling in either direction in this area would make the width wider to accommodate for the pivot point in the curve at Middle Road reducing the width between vehicles. If you factor in two foot snow banks on either side of the travel way, then the road can only accommodate the width of two vehicles; one parked and one traveling in one direction only.

In order to maintain the safety of the motoring and bicycling public as well as the customers and visitors to the two businesses in this area, three options need to be explored in order to maintain public safety:

1. Eliminate all on-street parking on Main Street in this area. This may be problematic for handicap patrons using either business, or
2. Allow on-street parking on the south side of Main Street for wakes and funerals only. Main Street would then have to be made one-way eastbound in order to maintain the safe distances between passing vehicles, especially in the snowy months. This would require Main Street westbound traffic to have to be rerouted over Common Street. I would assume that the intersection of Main Street and

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- Common Street, as well as Common Street and St. Marks Street will have to be reconfigured to meet the requirements of large trucks and busses, or
3. Consider the option of allowing two 11' travel lanes, a four foot shoulder on the north side, as well as a nine foot parking area along the south side of Main Street. This option may require land taking and reconfiguring of the Common stone wall.

In my professional opinion, in the best interest of public safety, Option 3 above may be safest for the safety for motorists, pedestrians, bicyclists, and visitors and customers at the two businesses in this area. At a minimum, this should be given another look once the exact survey of land is completed. If this option then is proven not to be practical, then one of the other two options should be considered.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Very Truly Yours,



John D. Mauro, Jr.,
Fire Chief/Emergency Management Director

cc: Jane Moran, Chief of Police
Karen Galligan, DPW Director

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