

TOWN OF SOUTHBOROUGH



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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December 8, 2009

Southborough Board of Selectmen
Southborough Town House
17 Common Street
Southborough, MA 01772

RE: Main Street Design

Members of the Board:

The Fire Chief raised several concerns regarding vehicle access in the area around the Common during and after the October 27th Selectmen's meeting when your Board chose which Main Street design to move forward. On the following day, Selectman Phaneuf requested that I summarize the design direction that the DPW was given at the Selectmen's meeting. The Town Planner was asked to add to the summary that: "The Town will continue to handle all traffic issues related to parking and speed as we have in the past."


Because the Selectmen did not want to change the way the Town handles the traffic issues in the area, and because of the Fire Chief's concerns, the Department of Public Works (DPW) met with the Police and Fire Chiefs on December 1st. During the December 1st meeting, the Public Safety Chiefs and the DPW reviewed the voted design and discussed whether traffic issues could be handled under the new design as they have been handled in the past. After speaking with the Public Safety Chiefs, it was clear that this was not the case.

At the time of the Selectmen's meeting the engineering design consultant was using concept plans and was not able to provide your Board with exact areas of takings, information regarding any reduction in the grassed area of the right-of-way, and information regarding the exact location and impact to the stone wall on the right-of-way at the Common. Therefore, the DPW is requesting that the Selectmen allow the DPW to move two designs at the Common, the original chosen design and the alternative design which has parking along the south side of the roadway, to a more detailed design phase. When the DPW receives the more detailed plan we will review it with your Board, the Public Safety Chiefs, residents and concerned boards. Then your Board will have more information about impacts to the roadway and private property as well as information from the Public Safety Chiefs to help you make your decision whether you want to have a parking lane in this area or whether you would prefer to maintain a no parking area and control traffic in a different manner.

I appreciate your considering allowing the DPW to obtain this additional information.

Sincerely,

TOWN OF SOUTHBOROUGH
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS


Karen Galligan
Superintendent

cc: John Mauro, Jr., Fire Chief
Jane Moran, Police Chief