



Town of Arlington
Office of the Town Manager

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To: Members of the Select Board

From: Jim Feeney, Assistant Town Manager

RE: Authorization of Temporary Repairs – Regis Rd.

Date: May 29, 2019

Members of the Board may recall Regis Rd. is a private way, the abutters of which petitioned the Board in both February 2018 and April 2017 for relief from its deteriorating condition. Additionally, the abutters presented well-documented claims regarding the use of the road for Thompson School drop-off/pick-up and parking, as well as it being used as a delivery route during school construction periods.

Since the abutters' last appearance at the June 11, 2018 meeting, we have met to explore various options to repair or repave the road, as well as strategies for addressing parking issues. Frankly, based on its current condition, the road itself requires a full depth reconstruction; no lesser treatment is feasible. With that in mind, although the abutters had reached critical mass to pursue a betterment, the eventuality of the utility provider needing to replace gas main infrastructure (as they were doing elsewhere in the vicinity) in at least the semi-near future presented a seemingly insurmountable hurdle. Understandably so, abutters wanted not to see their new road trenched. Given the circumstances, and following the resolution of relevant industry work stoppages, we facilitated a dialogue with National Grid regarding the scheduling of this future work for the 2020 construction season. As the time nears, we are considering facilitating a conversation between the abutters and National Grid, with the goal being the latter contributing funds to the road project instead of expending resources on what would amount to temporary post-construction restoration activities. If successful, the result would be a corresponding decrease in the cost-share burden borne by each household.

Now that this work is tentatively scheduled, and since the abutters' are well positioned to pursue a betterment upon its completion, we are seeking authorization to perform temporary

repairs aimed at providing a passable road until more extensive work begins. Here, we seek authorization under *Section 3(B): Town Criteria* to abate immediate hazards. After evaluation earlier this spring, in accordance with the provisions of the Town's recently revised Betterment Bylaw, the Director of Public Works deemed the current state of this road to significantly impact the safe passage of public safety vehicles and other Town vehicles and/or equipment. As an aside, it is worth noting this new, clearly defined instrumentality provides flexibility in addressing individual private way matters on a case-by-case basis.

In light of this pending request, we have arranged to provide for a temporary road closure on June 15th such that abutters can perform a clean-up of the road surface. This will involve collecting chunks of asphalt dislodged during plow operations, sweeping, shoveling and cleaning sediment from inside and around potholes and other areas of loss to facilitate temporary patching. The debris will be placed at either end of the road to facilitate haul and away and disposal by the Town at a later date. This will be a labor-intensive and time consuming process, and the Town is thankful the residents are willing to partner with Public Works to do their part to bring this project to fruition as it is not often well understood the level of effort and resources required to complete a project of this nature. Finally, on a subsequent day when time and materials allow, Public Works will perform temporary asphaltic patching to provide for safer travel.

There is no expectation the repairs will be anything but temporary given the failure of the road surface and sub-grade and the wear and tear endured during winter operations; nevertheless, with a betterment on the horizon, the repairs need only be temporary and we believe it is prudent in this instance to proceed with these repairs as part of the larger solution we have collectively developed. Thank you for your consideration.