

October 6, 2021

Select Board
Town of Arlington
730 Massachusetts Avenue
Arlington, MA 02476

RECEIVED
SELECT BOARD'S OFFICE
ARLINGTON, MA 02476

2021 OCT 12 PM 1:59

Adam W. Chapdelaine
Town Manager
Town of Arlington
730 Massachusetts Avenue
Arlington, MA 02476

Re: Safety issue on Elmhurst Road

By email and post

Select Board and Mr. Chapdelaine:

We're following up on the safety issue to young children and pedestrians on Elmhurst Rd.

It has been two months since we raised the issue to the Select Board (July 10 - letter included below) and Pam communicated with Mr. Chapdelaine (July 20). The traffic problem is worsening. Our neighborhood is very concerned.

The recent paving from Freeman to Randolph has led to an uptick of fast drivers. The road improvement, while of good quality, is creating a speedway. We need a solution! (Please note that our original letter was an undertaking separate from the request for road improvement.)

What is being done about the issue we raised? We would like to know what steps you are considering. We also look forward to attending a Select Board meeting.

Thank you for your time and attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

The block contains two handwritten signatures in blue ink. The first signature, on the left, is for Alan LaRue and is stylized with a large 'A' and 'L'. The second signature, on the right, is for Pam Wolfson and is written in a cursive script.

Alan LaRue & Pam Wolfson
67 Newcomb St.
Arlington, MA 02474

Alan

- mobile: 781-808-7709
- email: alalr905@gmail.com

Pam

- mobile: 781-974-3516
- email: pwolfson@comcast.net

July 10, 2021

Select Board
Town of Arlington
730 Massachusetts Avenue
Arlington, MA 02476

re: **SAFETY ISSUE**
 IMMEDIATE ATTENTION REQUESTED

Dear Select Board,

We want to make you aware of a safety issue and suggest a way to remediate it with little cost.

In the past few weeks, cars are coming up Brooks Avenue to Elmhurst Road usually between 3:00 and 7:00 p.m.. We believe apps like Waze or Google Maps direct them to take this route. We're sure drivers are frustrated by the long wait on Lake St, but we've never seen this happen in the many years we have lived here. (There are cars also coming the other way from Mass Ave down Elmhurst, but for now there is little volume.)

The safety issue: children and families are at risk from the traffic.

- A family recently moved to Elmhurst Rd. with two boys under 6. The parents and the boys have been out often in their driveway during these hours. The parents have been shocked at the cars going by in the late afternoon and several times have had to pull their sons back to avoid cars on the road.
- We recently saw a father biking down Elmhurst with his 3-4 year old son on a separate bike at about 5:00 pm. Cars were zooming by them and we overheard him telling his son repeatedly to watch out. We haven't seen them bike since.
- One day, four mothers with their newborn children in carriers and one father with his child in a carriage were independently walking on Elmhurst at the Brooks end and had to dodge traffic turning from Brooks.
- There is no sidewalk at the Brooks end of Elmhurst, so families with children have no place to go but the road. (Elmhurst is a private road.)

Car behavior:

- The cars typically swerve back and forth to avoid the potholes.
- Many cars go slow, but some are speeding well in excess of the speed limit.
- The volume of cars is variable.
 - On some days, we counted over 60 cars from 3-7 p.m.. Before this, there were almost no cars.
 - Other days, it seems there are very few. (Currently during summer vacation, the volume is high only during the last days of the week; we expect it to increase daily again in September.)

We would like the Town to act immediately to correct this problem.

Many years ago, Fred Ryan, then Chief of the Arlington Police, determined there was a safety issue with backed-up cars in the morning on Mass Ave turning right onto Elmhurst. He worked with the appropriate department and they recommended signage to prevent cars from turning. The signs were limited to 7-9 a.m. M-F and included a *Do Not Enter* sign on Elmhurst by Freeman (which accommodated parking for the apartment building on Mass Ave & Elmhurst.) There are also two signs on Newcomb and Randolph at the Elmhurst end prohibiting left turns during those hours and days. The Board approved their work. The police initially were present to inform drivers of the new policy. After all, it worked and there has been very little problem since.

Suggestions:

- The following would allow people living on Elmhurst to get home with no or negligible inconvenience:
 - Either a "*Residents Only M-F 3-7 p.m*" on Brooks, Newcomb and Randolph at Orvis (public roads) OR
 - "*No Right Turn M-F 3-7 pm*" signs on Brooks, Newcomb and Randolph (public roads) where the streets join Elmhurst.
 - The signs could be placed on the existing poles with the current signs except on Brooks which would require a new pole.
 - A few people may initially turn around on Brooks. Maybe this can be minimized by temporary signage at the 3 roads where they join Orvis indicating the new policy.
- Have the police there for a few days when the signage is implemented to instruct people of the new policy.
- Waze and Google might be contacted to state the new town policy.

We respect the Board's right to decide and to create the solution they see fit. Our suggestions above are only to stimulate thinking. We firmly hope the Board will act soon, though, to prevent injury or death to a child.

Of course, we are available if the Board requires.

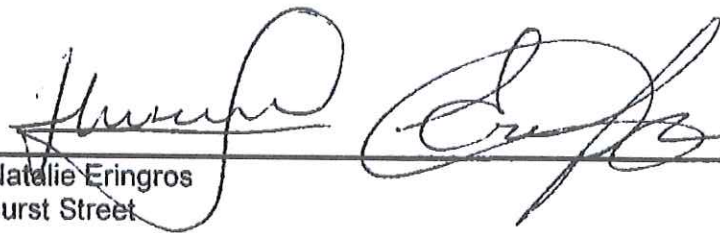
Thank you so much for your time and consideration of our concern.

Sincerely,


Alan LaRue & Pam Wolfson
67 Newcomb St.
Arlington, MA 02474

Alan mobile: 781-808-7709
Pam mobile: 781-974-3516


The undersigned are neighbors on Elmhurst who support Alan LaRue and Pam Wolfson's letter of July 10 to the Select Board.



Max & Natalie Eringros
18 Elmhurst Street



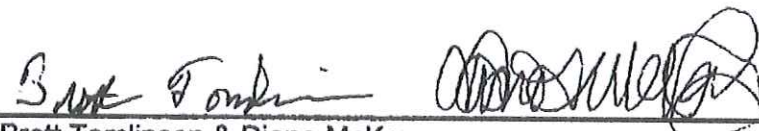
Jim & Laurie Bogdan
22 Elmhurst Street



Ben & Laura Willis
26 Elmhurst Street



Donald & Jennifer Gillespie
30 Elmhurst Street



Brett Tomlinson & Diane McKay
34 Elmhurst Street



Lally Stowell
38 Elmhurst Street