

# Pine Hill Road/Parmenter Road Safety Concerns

Southborough Board of Selectmen  
Meeting  
November 17, 2015

## **Petition for Increased Safety Measures at the Intersection of Pine Hill Road and Parmenter Road in Southborough, Massachusetts (57 signatures)**

<b>Petition summary and background:</b>	We, the residents located on, or near, Pine Hill Road in Southborough, Massachusetts, believe that unsafe conditions exist at the intersection of Pine Hill Road and Parmenter Road located in Southborough, Massachusetts.
<b>Action petitioned for:</b>	We, the undersigned, are concerned citizens who respectfully request that the Board of Selectmen of Southborough, Massachusetts investigate the present conditions of the aforementioned intersection, make recommendations, and implement measures that will improve the safety of this area.

## **Petition for Increased Speed Control Measures on Pine Hill Road and Parmenter Road in Southborough, Massachusetts (48 signatures)**

<b>Petition summary and background:</b>	We, the residents located on, or near, Pine Hill Road and Parmenter Road in Southborough, Massachusetts, believe that unsafe conditions exist along the length of Pine Hill Road and Parmenter Road in Southborough, Massachusetts. Pine Hill Road and Parmenter Road are narrow, country roads with many curves and blind spots. We believe that the traffic volume has increased over the years, due to an increase in motor vehicle operators using Pine Hill Road and Parmenter Road to access major routes between Framingham, Marlborough, Southborough, and Sudbury (including delivery companies such as FedEx), especially during major commuting times. We also believe that excessive speed has also become an issue. These issues, coupled with our remote location from the emergency services provided by the Town of Southborough, and the road's lack of infrastructure (no fire hydrants), have created an unsafe environment for these thickly settled roadways in Southborough, Massachusetts.
<b>Action petitioned for:</b>	We, the undersigned, are concerned citizens who respectfully request that the Board of Selectmen of Southborough, Massachusetts investigate the present conditions of the aforementioned roadways, make recommendations, and implement measures that will improve the safety of this area.

# Safety Concerns Raised by Residents

- Narrow, winding roads that are regularly blocked
- Poor visibility along both roadways (intersections, curves, hills, blind driveways, poor lighting)
- Cars traveling too fast, no incentive to slow down – vehicles passing other vehicles on narrow roads and/or crossing centerlines of roadways
- Volume of traffic has significantly increased and is a major cut through from Route 20 to Route 30 – especially during rush hour timeframes
- Pedestrian/bicycle safety, lack of sidewalks/crosswalks – access to Callahan State Park, bus stops, numerous children in the area
- Lack of centerlines on entire roadways and not enough safety signage along roadways
- Commercial vehicle traffic & parking in roadways, especially landscaping vehicles.
- Large number of accidents (72 over 12 years) – roads are well outside the fire station desired response time area (7-10 minutes) and lack fire hydrants.
- Problem Spots - Intersection of Pine Hill Road/Parmenter Road, curve around 78 Pine Hill, “straightaway” on Pine Hill Road , hill between Angelica/Nichols

# Recent Resident Comments

- “I am not sure what the answer is, but to continue to have serious traffic incidents occur without addressing safety issues does not seem responsible. . . This area continues to be extremely dangerous with accidents not being infrequent. There was a fatality in Framingham when a resident was getting their mail”
- “We all play a guessing game every time we turn left onto Parmenter”
- “We moved our driveway because of the traffic dangers, we couldn’t even get our mail without high risk”
- “People speed on Pine Hill, making the entire length treacherous for those of us who live here. We are all clear that something needs to be done . . . we have been here since 1993 and the increase in volume and speed of the traffic has been astronomical”
- “I do not want the Town to wait until something tragic happens on Pine Hill Road before something is done to make Pine Hill Road less treacherous... there is a perfect confluence of danger here with the known history of speeding cars, the many locations of blind spots and poor sight/stopping distances, the robust foot and recreational traffic of bikers, joggers, walkers, etc, the dozens of young children, and the several school bus stop locations.”

# Actions to Date

- Southborough PD Increase in Speed Enforcement on Pine Hill Road (June/July 2015 timeframe)
- DPW Intersection Evaluation Study of Pine Hill Road/Parmenter Road Intersection (summer 2015)
- Collect Accident Data for Pine Hill Road/Parmenter Road over past 12 years – 72 accidents (June 2015)
- New signs installed for intersection (speed 25mph, stop ahead, etc.) – (October 2015)
- Single yellow line painted on Parmenter and Pine Hill Road (November 2015)
- Petitions signed and Survey conducted (49 respondents) of residents of Pine Hill Road/Parmenter Road area (October 2015)

**100% Respondents to the Survey believe there are road safety issues with both roadways**

## Pine Hill Road/Parmenter Road Intersection Report Resident Supported Safety Improvements

- 81.6% - Remove Trees/Vegetation Blocking Sightlines
- 75.5% - Add Three Way Stop Sign
- 71.4% - Adding Signage
- 61.2% - Painting Yellow & White Lines
- 55.1% - Reducing Speed Limit to 25mph
- 46.9.4% - Increase Intersection Turn Radius
- 34.7% - Remove/Rebuild Stone Wall
- 30.6% - Regrade Roadway

# Examples of Successful Strategies on Other Roads in the Area:

- **Edmands Roads (Framingham) Multiple Speed Bumps**  
- due to fatal accident
- **New York Avenue (Framingham) Multiple Speed Bumps, high visibility crosswalks, signs, lights** - due to fatal accident and injuries
- **Numerous Intersections (Marlborough) high visibility intersection stop signs and signals**
- **Parkerville Road speed bumps, flashing speed signs** - school zone
- **Clifford Road, Main Street, Route 85, Richards Road** - flashing lights, flashing speed signs, traffic lights
- **Latisquama Road Truck exclusion**

# Resident Survey Additional Actions or Safety Measures to be Considered

- Reduce speed limit on Pine Hill Road (PHR) to 25mph.
- Paint yellow lines on entire length of both roadways.
- Place speed humps on PHR to curb speeding and a couple of stop signs along road (Very effective in Framingham).
- Add more speed limit signs along both roads.
- Increase policing at certain times when traffic is heavier.
- Limit commercial vehicle traffic and banning of parking commercial vehicles on PHR.
- Regrade roadway (hill) at PHR between Nichols Street and Angelica Lane.
- Add embedded markers to warn drivers crossing centerline of roadways.
- Add sidewalks to both roadways.



# Survey Other Comments

- Add speed humps on Pine Hill Road near blind driveways and narrow sections of roadway.
- There are speed bumps on Edmands Road in Framingham that have drastically reduced speed on that notorious stretch of road. Parmenter needs similar as anyone with a high performance vehicle treats Parmenter as their own personal Raceway.....
- The issue of landscapers parking their vehicles on Pine Hill is a serious safety problem-particularly around curves.
- If there are stop signs and signage to reduce speed (signs warning stop ahead), trees won't need to be cut down.
- Marlborough seems to be big proponent of multi-way stop signs. Stop signs effectively control the amount and speed of pass through traffic.

# Survey Other Comments (cont)

- Reduction of speed limit will only be effective if enforced.
- Three way stop sign would not be a good idea. Will cause traffic jams and confusion.
- Yellow lines should be painted all the way down both Parmenter and Pine Hill Roads to help keep cars in their lane.
- This is a serious problem, more serious than the report has shown. I personally have had at least a dozen very near misses at the intersection.
- It is dangerous pulling out of the driveway onto the street because of the high speed at which vehicles travel. Sooner or later there will be a serious accident with serious injuries or even worse.
- I would prefer any changes not in any way change the rural character of the road.

# Pine Hill Road/Parmenter Road Intersection Evaluation Study - Questions

- When were the traffic counts/speed data captured and for how long (day, week, month)? Counts and speed data seem very low.
- What judgments were applied to what recommendations were or were not supported/desirable? Specifically the discussion about a three way stop? Was cost and timing considered for these?
- Why weren't there other options at least listed and rejected?
- Why wasn't accident data included beyond 3 years ago? Our research (per Southborough Police reports) indicated there have been 14 accidents at this intersection over the past 12 years.
- Will a similar study be commissioned for the rest of Pine Hill Road to address other safety concerns/areas?

Next Steps?

**Thank You**