

147 Cordaville Road
Southborough, MA 01772



DATE: August 30, 2017

MEMORANDUM

TO: Southborough Board of Selectmen
CC: Mark Purple, Town Administrator
FROM: Karen Galligan, DPW Superintendent
SUBJECT: Davis Road

Attached is a letter requesting an opening in the center island of Davis road to allow access to both sides of the roadway for 7 Davis Road. As you can see in the aerial view below, the other driveways on the street have openings to accommodate left and right movements out of the driveways.



The DPW supports the requested enlargement of the center island opening. The center island was required by the Planning board, but there is nothing in the Planning Board decision that prohibits alteration or addition of the island access ways. The first two center island openings on Davis Road were previously widened to allow better access for the adjacent driveways, but I don't have any documentation on how, or precisely when, those changes occurred. Also, the island is landscaped, and the DPW had concerns that an alteration might raise objections from other residents on Davis Road. Therefore, this request is before you to approve at a public meeting, as the Road Commissioners, in order to allow public discussion. The DPW asked the proponent Mr. Gao to check with his neighbors and formally request the enlargement of the center island opening that currently exists at the 4 Davis Road driveway.

This is not a typical curb cut. It requires removing approximately 50 feet of the center island and paving the area where the island is removed. I do not know when this work will get done, but we will try to do it this fall.

The attached request from 7 Davis Road and the attached letter of support from 4 Davis Road give excellent reasons why enlarging this opening is warranted.

John B. Butler
Katherine Whitehouse
4 Davis Road
Southborough, Massachusetts

Daniel L. Kolenda
Chair
Board of Selectmen
Southborough Town House
17 Common Street
Southborough, MA 01772

Dear Chairman Kolenda,

This letter is in support of the request by our neighbors, Mr. Yun Gao and Ms. Chengbai Xu, that the Department of Public Works widen the median cut on Davis road that is in front of our driveway at 4 Davis Road, so that the opening extends in front of the driveway at 7 Davis.

We agree that the current situation is dangerous and difficult to deal with, especially for the Gao family, and for all vehicles servicing their home at 7 Davis. All other driveways on Davis, other than 7 Davis, have at least one median cut through which they can exit. With the median blockage in front of 7 Davis, vehicles of all kinds exiting that driveway often attempt to pass through the existing cut by momentarily driving the wrong way on Davis, northward, to the cut at 4 Davis. That is hazardous. Sight lines toward the south are very short, due to the hill on Davis, which peaks just south of the 7 Davis driveway and blocks visibility of northbound cars.

Also, the safety of vehicles using the existing cut to enter our driveway at 4 Davis will be improved by a widening, because shrubbery in the median limits visibility, making the left turn into our driveway somewhat risky.

Lastly, the cut, as is, is too narrow to be cleared of snow, except by hand or snow blower. Plowing is essentially impossible, even for small pickup truck size plows, because the only approach would be by first backing up our driveway. This is often impossible in winter snow conditions. Mr. Gao and ourselves have cleared snow with snowblowers from the Town's existing median cut for the last 20 years or so. With a widened cut, it would be possible for at a small truck plow to angle through it. While we are not requesting that the Town clear snow from the median cut, having a median cut that at least could be cleared by some kind of snow plow seems minimally prudent to us.

For all these reasons we hope the Town can do as Mr. Yun Gao and Ms. Chengbai Xu has requested.

Very truly yours,


John B. Butler


Katherine Whitehouse

August 20, 2017

Yun Gao/Chengbai Xu

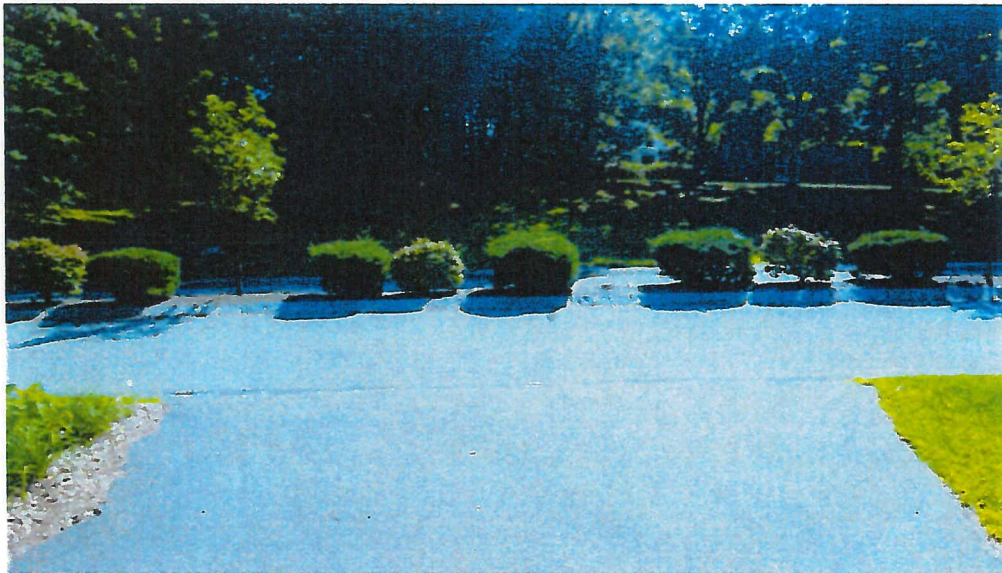
7 Davis Rd. Southborough, MA 01772

Re: Request for widening median cut at 4 and 7 Davis Road, Southborough

Dear Board of Selectmen:

The Davis Rd has a center island (median) with shrubs and trees resulting in one way in and out to Breakneck Hill Rd. Except our home at 7 Davis Rd, all homes on Davis Rd have adequate openings on the median to allow access from their driveways to Davis Rd in both directions.

As shown in the following photos, there is no opening/access in the median for 7 Davis Rd. We can only exit Davis Rd to Breakneck Hill Rd via the narrow at No. 4 Davis Rd. Although we have lived in this situation for over 20 years, it has been very dangerous for us to exit Davis Rd since the center island blocks the view and access to Davis Rd. Drivers of exiting vehicles on Davis Rd can hardly see us pulling out our driveway. Furthermore, it is also very difficult and unsafe for emergency, delivery and other larger vehicles to get in and out of our driveway due to the blockade by the center island.



Picture-1. View from driveway of 7 Davis Rd

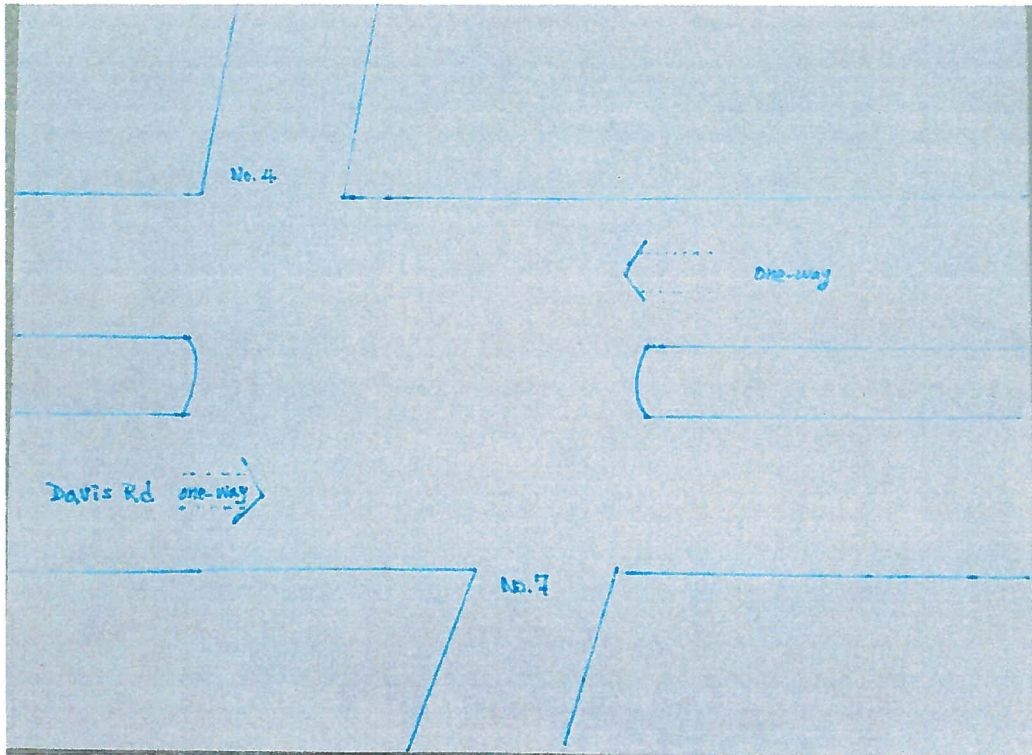


Picture-2. View from opening at 4 Davis Rd toward Ashley Rd



Picture-3. View toward driveway at 7 Davis Rd.

Therefore, we kindly request the Board of Selectmen to grant permission allowing DPW to widen the cut at 4 and 7 Davis Rd as shown in the following sketch:



We have communicated with our neighbors about our request, particularly our immediate neighbor, Mr. John Butler at 4 Davis Rd. We have received supports from our neighbors without objections. Mr. Butler will also write a separate letter in support our request.

Thank you very much for your consideration and please let us know if you need more information or have any question.

Sincerely

Yun Gao and Chengbai Xu

CC: Karen Galligan at DPW