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TOWN FORUM - HOYT ROAD

In this Town Forum, the petitioners, the Selectmen, and the East Andover Fire Department debate Warrant Article 15.

The Petitioners

We, Brian and Victoria Tilton, having been residents of Andover for the past 20 years, would like to build a single-family home on six acres at the end of Hoyt Road. However, Town ordinances require 250 feet of Town-maintained road frontage to achieve this goal.

We currently live on Route 11 and, having two small children, would like to relocate somewhere within this side of town that will remove us from such high-speed traffic, thereby allowing a safer daily environment for our children to play and grow in.

By upgrading the road to Class 5, which will be fully financed by us, we are increasing the tax base for the town. We also fully intend to respect and carefully adhere to all environmental and historical laws when we upgrade the road to meet the Town specification requirements.

We would like to thank all town members for their consideration of our request.

Andover Board of Selectmen

This year the Town is being petitioned to reclassify a further 625 feet of Hoyt Road from Class 6 to Class 5 so that a home can be built there. This is a proper subject for Town Meeting to decide. Before voters make that decision they should consider the following factors.

Based on US Geological Survey topographical maps, the road's grade looks to be about 16% (a 16-foot rise every 100 feet), which is far in excess of the 8% specified by both Town regulations for new subdivision roads (which regulations are used for all new and upgraded roads) and by the National Fire Protection Association's Standard for Water Supplies for Suburban and Rural Fire Fighting, both of which are based on safe travel conditions for emergency equipment.

Such a steep grade will mean more expensive winter and summer maintenance, and at some risk to workmen and equipment, especially in winter conditions.

Several hundred feet of the connecting Class 5 part of Hoyt Road are presently single-lane, impossible for fire trucks or other vehicles to pass one another. That part of the road would also have to be upgraded at the ex-

pense of the applicants, the abutters, or the Town.

Extending the road as requested would further open large tracts of land in Andover and possibly in Franklin as well to residential development, at greater cost to Andover's educational and other public services.

East Andover Fire Department

The 16% grade is an issue. Trying to get up a slope that steep in bad weather may not be possible. During good weather we could make it, though slowly.

The greater concern for Fire and Rescue is the long one-lane dead-end road. Water for fire suppression would need to be trucked in on a road with no way out. We would be forced to send one truck to the scene laying its own feeder line. No additional trucks would be able to assist after the line is placed in the road.

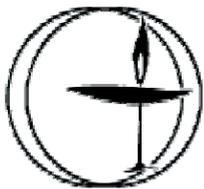
This is a violation of National Fire Protection Association standards, so we would be required to fight the fire from the outside of the building. As we are aggressive fire fighters, we would try to get inside to do a better job. The result is greater risk for our emergency responders.

It would be better if there were a road that was two lanes wide.

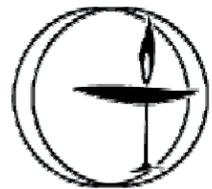


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Kearsarge Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



For information, contact
The Rev. Emily Burr at
603 540-2487.



Our website is
www.kuufnh.org

An Invitation:

- If you are looking for a religious community in which to seek spiritual growth...
- If you are eager to consider religious questions with others who are not always certain they have the answers but who are determined to keep searching for them...
- If you would like the fellowship of others for celebration and worship, discussion, and education, friendship, and mutual support...
- If you want children to develop their own religious beliefs...
- If you wish to preserve and extend the traditions of personal freedom and human dignity against the dangers they face today...

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