May 9, 2016

Dear Councilor Crossley:

We have learned from David Olson that the determination of street design, including the possibility of a cut-out for a Blue Zone at the new Zervas School site, will be brought before your Public Facilities Committee by the Commissioner of Public Works:

“Before any work can be done in terms of street improvements around the site, the Public Works Commissioner is going to have to present a plan to the Public Facilities Committee of the City Council that addresses the above concerns.  City Ordinances Chapter 26, section 51 requires public way improvements that are considered specific repairs to be approved by the City Council.” (David Olson)

As you know, the Waban and Newton Highlands Area Councils held a community meeting in April to gather input on the street design near this soon to be newly constructed school. We were led to believe that the community’s suggestions would be carefully considered by the City. Since then, we have learned that there is a “pause” in the City’s movement on this issue. When the “pause” is lifted, and your Committee receives the plan for consideration from the Commissioner of Public Works, we ask that the Waban Area Council and the Newton Highlands Area Council be notified of the Commissioner’s plan before the meeting and that we be invited to attend and speak so that we may repeat to your Committee what our residents have suggested for consideration for the street design near the Zervas “Blue Zone”.

Thank you for your assistance with this.

Sallee Lipshutz, President

Waban Area Council