



**TOWN OF NEEDHAM, MASSACHUSETTS
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
500 Dedham Avenue, Needham, MA 02492
Telephone (781) 455-7550 FAX (781) 449-9023**

August 15, 2013

Jon Schneider, Chairman
Needham Board of Appeals
500 Dedham Avenue
Needham, MA 02492

RE: Proposed Relocation of Existing Public Sewer Main

Dear Mr. Schneider,

The Department of Public Works is responding to several statements made during two public hearings by the applicant regarding the proposed relocation of the existing sewer main on the subject property. Specifically, the applicant contends that the proposed sewer main in its relocated position is or will be superior to the existing main in its current location. As we understand the applicant's reasoning, they contend that a sewer main constructed out of new, more modern materials at a flatter slope will yield a substantial improvement to the sewer system as compared to the existing sewer main.

The Department of Public Works disagrees with the applicant's contention. The existing sewer main has not presented any maintenance or operational issues for the Department. The existing main on the property is not located below the water table and does not suffer from infiltration problems. The steep slope and manhole drops that exist have not exhibited the typical problems usually associated with those conditions. Eventually, the pipes and manholes will have to be replaced, but at present and for the foreseeable future the pipes and manholes are intact and are structurally sound.

The proposed sewer main will be substantially longer than the existing main and will not be accessible to the Department for maintenance. The proposed sewer main cannot be excavated should it become necessary without affecting the proposed retaining wall due to its proximity with the wall. The proposed sewer easement will be shared with other utilities (water, drain, electric telephone, cable) thereby affecting the sewer main's accessibility, reduces the effective easement width to 15 feet for a distance of 50 feet (a proposed retaining wall lies within the easement), and eliminates access to the downstream portion of the Town's sewer (a retaining wall is proposed across the width of the easement).

For the reasons stated above, the proposed sewer is not superior to the existing sewer.

Should you have any questions, please contact our office at 781-455-7550.

Truly yours,

Anthony L. Del Gaizo
Town Engineer

Cc: Richard P Merson, Director of Public Works
Robert A Lewis, Assistant Director of Public Works
Vincent Roy, Water & Sewer Superintendent
Thomas Ryder, Assistant Town Engineer