

Sara M. Morris 9 Clifton Road Pole # 4

“Safety/Security – I have children and the light proposed for elimination is the only light on the street”

Bernard R. Lucas 12 Clifton Road Pole # 4

“We only have one light now, years ago we had more.”

Tyler C. Thompson 16 Clifton Road Pole # 4

- “1. Only light on street
2. located at darkest corner
3. located at lowest corner, which means water, ice, snow collection at worst.
4. 4 houses have children residing on Clifton Rd alone!”

George P. Stowell 17 Clifton Road Pole # 4

“This is the only street light we have on the whole street. With the number of homes and the way the street runs, we actually need at least 2 more.”

Danielle Despins 18 Clifton Road Pole # 4

“This is the only working light on our street and by removing it it would leave us in darkness.”

Jay Meyer Payson Road Pole # 6

“Please accept these comments in opposition to elimination of a streetlight on Payson Road. Note that I do also plan to appear and speak at the meeting on this subject scheduled for next week.

The streetlight in question is located on Utility Pole No. 6, between 21 and 23 Payson Road. It is important to realize that this streetlight is located at a particularly dark location on Payson Road. The area surrounding the light has several large maple trees, which block moonlight and other illumination and make it very dark at night. As detailed below, this streetlight is important for neighborhood safety and security and therefore should not be eliminated.

Payson Road is located in the popular and congested "Falmouth Flats" neighborhood. Although Payson Road and the other streets in this neighborhood do not have sidewalks, there is extensive pedestrian traffic: children, dog walkers and those seeking fresh air frequently walk up and down the street at all hours. Because Payson Road is not a heavily traveled street, children often play in the roadway. There are at least two basketball hoops placed on the edge of the roadway which are used by neighborhood children, and several other children play lacrosse and baseball in the street nearly every

night. Our neighborhood also has many "seasoned citizens" who like to walk in the evening. Therefore, although there are no developed "pedestrian amenities", there are certainly plenty of pedestrians who have no choice but to walk or play in the roadway, sharing it with vehicular traffic. Several times, while backing out of my driveway at night, I have been able to see dog walkers on Payson Road only because the area is illuminated by this streetlight. Without the streetlight, I worry that vehicles traveling on Payson Road will create a hazard to the many children and others who play or walk in the roadway.

In the spring, summer and fall, it is also very common to park vehicles along the side of Payson Road. These parked vehicles create congestion on the narrow street, and are subject to damage if they are not easily visible. In fact, while my wife's car was parked on the side of Payson Road several years ago, it was hit by a neighbor backing out of her driveway. The danger is even greater when there are two cars parked on either side of the road, which frequently occurs; this creates a very narrow passage for vehicular traffic. And when vehicles meet while traveling in opposite directions on Payson Road, it is common for one vehicle to stop and allow the other to pass due to the narrow width of the roadway. I am worried that if the streetlight is eliminated there will be a greater potential for minor accidents involving parked and/or moving vehicles.

Finally, this streetlight improves the security of our homes and vehicles. Several years ago, there was a spate of minor thefts from parked vehicles in the neighborhood at night, caused by a small group of thieves who traveled to Falmouth from Portland. My own vehicle was robbed; I lost a compass, flashlight and some other small items. The potential for such thefts would be substantially increased if Payson Road were darker and it were easier for thieves to enter vehicles or skulk around residences because there was less light from this streetlight.

I do understand and agree that it is desirable to eliminate unnecessary streetlights in order to save on expenses. However, the densely populated Falmouth Flats neighborhood is a poor place to effect these savings. In particular, the location of the streetlight in question is already dark and would be even darker without that streetlight. In the interests of safety and security, I ask that you do not eliminate this streetlight!

Incidentally, if you are looking for ways to save money, I will repeat what I and many other residents have said frequently: eliminate Falmouth's subsidy to the Falmouth Flyer bus service!

Thank you for taking the time to consider my views.”

Erik Wiberg 27 Payson Road Pole # 9

“Please accept this as notification that Judy Wiberg and I, Erik Wiberg, disagree with elimination of the street light at 33 Payson Road. I spoke with Roger Clement, 33 Payson Road, who has two small children and whose house is adjacent to the light, and he expressed his desire to maintain the street light. That end of the street and to the west is

heavily canopied with trees and there will be very little light otherwise at night. There are many small children and several elderly at that end of the street. Many residents use the street for passive recreation including walking, cycling, and street games. The light is important for public safety and security and should not be removed.

I am surprised that the website informs one that "If you disagree with the proposed elimination of a particular street light or lights, then you need to come to the meeting with an explanation against elimination to the Town Council." I trust that this email expresses our sentiments as well as we could in person and meets the Town's needs. *

Please advise on the criteria needed save the light. *A confirmation or receipt of this email is requested."

Roger Clement, Amy Tchao 33 Payson Road Pole # 9

“Safety of Children. Six children (Ages 3-10) live in the immediately surrounding houses and frequently play in and around the street, including during times of year when darkness falls early. Most lots on Payson Road are one quarter acre or less, and the houses tend to be small. Accordingly, our children spend a lot of time outside, and the street is an extension of our yards. Kids regularly zip in and out of driveways on bicycles and scooters. A number of elderly people also live (and drive)in the neighborhood. This street light is very helpful to keeping the children visible.

Safety of Pedestrians. Payson Road used heavily by pedestrians of all ages, but especially older residents. No sidewalks exist. Because of our small lots and small driveways, residents and visitors often park on the street, creating blind spots and causing traffic to weave. The loss of the visibility afforded by the street light would create a safety hazard.

Conclusion. Street lighting has always been one of the fundamental, core services provided by our Town. As such, it should be one of the very last things eliminated when we need to cut spending. The light on pole #9 is a very good investment in our safety at \$150 per year.”

Chantal J. Walker 15 Payson Road Pole # 3,6,9

“There are at least 15 children under the age of 18 who live on this street. They are frequently running, walking their dog, playing ball, scootering, skateboarding, inline skating, bicycling, playing basketball or lacrosse at any given time. And that's just in the halfway decent months. During the colder months, these same children are building snow forts, having snowball fights and/or building snowmen. Because this neighborhood is very family-friendly, there are many children living on the adjacent streets. Children on this street are good friends with other children in the neighborhood and are always walking to each others' houses. Eliminating the street lights on this street would make it

extremely difficult to see the children and avoid terrible accidents. Although I understand I can only address my street, it is my considered opinion that getting rid of any of the streetlights in this neighborhood would be an exceptionally hazardous, if not negligent, action to take.”

David Segre

26 Payson Road

Pole # 9

“Given the number of young children and the amount of pedestrian traffic present on our street, I would request that pole #9 remain. To remove it may pose an unnecessary public safety risk.

In addition, although I understand the short-term budget pressures driving pole removal, I think a plan to convert some of the street lights tagged for elimination to an alternative/green energy source would initiate a more progressive and optimistic conversation.”

Dan Vogt

Payson Road

“My wife and I live on Payson Road and noticed the signs on the telephone poles around the neighborhood regarding the Street Light Reduction Program. I have since gone on the town's website and reviewed the proposed map and plan. I am interested in finding out how I can provide input on this proposed plan. Unfortunately, I am unable to attend the public hearing on May 24 as I will be out of town on business.

Is there a way to voice my perspective other than the public hearing. While I can understand how the town may want to reduce cost by eliminating lights I am not sure the proposed approach is the best approach. Particularly in our neighborhood, where the lights selected to be removed are not evenly distributed. I also wonder could the lights simply be shut off from 11 pm to 5 am rather than removed. I think having the lights is better and safer for the members of the neighborhood who walk with their families and dogs in the neighborhood at night. Please let me know if there is a way to provide input into the program outside of Monday's forum.

Thank you for your time and assistance.”

Aldona Barnes & Lillian Lawrence

27 Amerscoggin Road

Pole # 11

“My sister, Aldona, and I are quite elderly (90 & 85, respectively). We were outraged to learn of your plan to shut off and remove our precious street light. We reside at the end of the (dead end) street, the street light is on our side and our mail box is beneath it. When this light was disabled we found it extremely difficult to pick up our mail as this end of the road is in constant disrepair (pot holes, erosion, ruts) due to ongoing drainage problems. It makes one's footing very dangerous during the dark winter months. Also Falmouth has an increasing number of break-ins: the safety factor (for women and the elder especially) should be self explanatory!”

Brian Norton

133 Hardy Road

Pole # 60

“I feel that pole 60 street light is needed for traffic safety and security reasons. Drivers unfamiliar with the dead end on Hardy Road sometimes drive very fast down the last straight stretch, if the light were not there I, and several of my neighbors, worry that there will be an accident.

Also, before the light was placed there in the early 1990’s we experienced strange activity on the cul-de-sac, especially in the summer. Because the road is dead end and there is no through traffic, some younger folks would park, or meet on the cul-de-sac. I have no proof of the types of activity, but I would see the same vehicle meeting with other vehicles for short periods of time. This type of vehicle movement suggests drug sale activity to me. The vehicles did not belong to residents of Hardy Rd. At one point we experienced the same car there several nights each week over a period of perhaps 6 months with the occupants evidently having sex. Used condoms were tossed out the window of the car in the same spot. Police patrols currently appear to be infrequent, perhaps the police department can shed some light on issues frequently experienced on cul-de-sacs. Thank you for your consideration”

Jim Duchesne

137 Hardy Road

Pole # 60

“The end of Hardy road is an isolated dead-end street and with the presence of a street light the area still becomes, at times, a hang- out for people during the late hours. The lack of any kind of lighting would certainly embolden those who are looking for such a dark and isolated space. I would urge that the removal of this light be reconsidered and that perhaps an after dark evaluation be exercised to assist in the final decision making process.

Thank you for your attention”

Madeline Carroll

19 Winslow Road

Pole # 2,5,7

“First + foremost is the safety and security issue. Winslow Rd. has a lot of trees and even with the street lights it is quite dark in places. I like having the lights on all the streets as I sometimes go out walking in the evening and will not do so without the lights. Please re-consider this approach as the savings are not worth the risks.”

A. June Chipman

10 West Circle Drive

Pole # 4

“It is terribly dark from Winn Road to around the corner by #13 West Circle, especially when we have change of time. There are three senior citizens in this area. And two of us live alone.”

Fred & Irma Baker

7 West Circle Drive

Pole # 4

“It is the only street light on the south side of the street. Also presently it lights a sharp turn in the street that would be dangerous in the dark. Most residents on West Circle are either retired or near retirement. So far people our age, this street would be dangerous if this light is turned off. Several residents are in their 70’s and 80’s - - - Let’s keep the light on!!!”

Usha Reddi

11 Phillips Road

Pole # 3

“Phillips Rd has more direct traffic than the adjoining streets off Phillips due to its direct connection to Shore Line. This puts kids at greater risk in the evening hours.”

Richard & Rita Ross

28 Gray Road

Pole # 9

“Please do not remove pole # 9. We need the illumination down at this part of Gray Rd. All elderly living here + it is the beginning of the Presumpscott River Bridge (under construction). If you take next pole up (across from # 20 Gray Rd, no number on pole) they still will get some illumination from Southworth Ins. Co. The light at end of Roberts Ln will also illuminate that area. It is so very very dark without that light. Thank you for your consideration.”

Marilyn Bonney

26 Gray Road

Pole # 9

“If you remove the street light across from my house it will be much too dark down here. I’m elderly + fear if I get sick the light will be needed to bring me help. If you leave our pole + take one next to it they will get light from Southworth Ins. Co.”

Robert Stakel

117 Blackstrap Road

Pole # 13

“I’m not sure we’ll be here for the public hearing, but wanted to put in my thoughts, at least as they relate to pole 13 on Blackstrap (in front of our house at 117 Blackstrap) and the next one down the hill toward Brook. From late Spring to Fall, there is no real need for these lights. I believe that, if public safety was the reason for their installation, there is a reason for having them in the winter. Two pre-light anecdotes: As the building boom went on turning Blackstrap into a commuter route, drivers were not, and probably are not, ready for the road to fall away toward Brook. On one occasion, a car braked too hard and went off the road across the street from us. The driver used our phone to call a tow and indicated that he had, in fact, braked for the hill. A second incident actually brought a car into a snow bank next to our driveway. These are only the ones I was in front to witness. Since the lights were installed, there have been no incidents.

There is certainly anecdotal evidence that the lights improved safety. It is not proof, but definitely worth considering during the deliberative process.”

There were also residents that responded in favor of the program or wanted to add lights to our elimination list. Below is a summary of all these responses.

Phil Cormier 107 Underwood Road Pole # 15

“I strongly support Falmouth's program to reduce our street lighting. For what it's worth, we would favor the elimination of the street light on the pole in front of our house at #107 Underwood. I'd love to have the darkness.”

Alex Agnew 4 Avon Road

“Thank you for eliminating street lights in Falmouth. I am very much in favor of these efforts to save energy, improve that night-time atmosphere and to help town residents see stars more easily.

I would support the elimination of additional streetlights in our Flats neighborhood. In particular, the light at the intersection of Whitney and Avon, a very quiet intersection, is right next to our house. In my opinion, this light is not needed. Although this is an intersection, it is hardly comparable to other busy intersections in town which have the same amount of lighting. This is an example of an intersection that may not need light.

Thank you for your efforts in this area.”

Elizabeth Efrenfield 6 Shoreline Drive Pole # 11.1

“I'm writing in support of eliminating the street light at the corner of Whitney Rd and Shoreline Dr. This is at the corner of the lot where I live (6 shoreline Dr).

According to the map posted on the town webpage this light is one of those suggested to be eliminated, however I didn't see a green sticker on the lamp pole.

Thank you very much for your part in this effort to reduce cost to Falmouth, and to reduce light pollution (and the air pollution needed to generate the electricity to power the light!).”

Joe O'Donnell 8 Phillips Road

“I live on Phillips Road in Falmouth and totally support removing steetlights. I am very pleased to learn of this project.

It's likely that I won't make the public hearing, but please add my voice in support.”

Denise & John Lund 2 Justamere Road Pole # 32 or 49

“We would like this light removed, It is on our property and shines into our bedroom windows. There is no apparent safety need for this light, as it is not a 4-way intersection.”

Jennifer Gregg E. Ramsdell Road

“BRAVO! This is an excellent initiative! I have checked the map and it APPEARS that the light on E. Ramsdell Road is not due to be removed. This is a shame, as it serves no useful purpose. Perhaps I have misread the map? “

“ Sadly, the one you are removing is not the one I referred to. The latter is across from no. 15 East Ramsdell, is not at an intersection or a pedestrian amenity, and I can't imagine it is needed for public safety....

Wonder if some further consideration might be made?

Joanne Larman 10 McKinley Road Pole # 3 and 6

Help preserve the character and safety of our neighborhood!

A decision has been made by the town manager to eliminate the connecting street lights between intersections in this neighborhood. In neighborhoods where they have sidewalks they will not be eliminated. This doesn't make sense because in this neighborhood, the street is our sidewalk.

This is a densely populated neighborhood with an abundance of people walking, biking, and socializing and children playing in the streets. When you take out the street lights in the middle of the blocks it will have a huge impact on the safety of everyone who enjoys the close knit community that we live in. When you take the lights out it is very dark. It does not feel safe walking in areas where there are no street lights. Right now we are enjoying the longer days of summer. In November through March we are living in darkness sometimes as early as 4pm. Kids will be walking from the bus on dark streets in the winter.

I also believe that there is a safety factor in not having street lights that prevent break ins and theft. People on both sides of me and on other streets have had valuables taken out of their unlocked cars at night. I think a dark neighborhood is an invitation for prowlers.

There is unfairness about how the lights will be taken out. Those people who live near an intersection or who have sidewalks will not be affected. Those in the middle of the block will be greatly affected and still pay the same taxes.

I see this neighborhood as such a great example of truly family oriented, healthy outdoor enjoying, community minded people. Please act now to maintain this Norman Rockwell type community of safety with well lit streets.

Go to the town meeting on Monday 24th at the town hall, 7pm and voice your concern. It will make a difference. If you can't go call the city and voice your concern by calling the town manager Nathon Poore at 781-5253 or Bonny Rodden at 781-2505 or any other or all of the town councilors listed with phone numbers on the Falmouth town website.

Thanks for your support to keep our neighborhood safe.
Joanne Larman