

Michael Newman  
401 Sandy Valley Rd.  
Westwood, MA 02090  
617 566-7975  
617 821-4608 Cell  
[mnewman@dragonnorth.com](mailto:mnewman@dragonnorth.com)

11-Jan-10

Ralph Phaneuf

Westwood DPW  
50 Carby St.  
Westwood, MA  
02090

Dear Mr. Phaneuf,

Repair and repaving of Sandy Valley Road is long past due. My neighbors and I have raised this issue multiple times in writing and by phone.

There are currently over 50 potholes in the road, some of which are deep enough to cause cars to bottom out. Recent repaving was performed on roads (Gay Street and Fox Hill) that were in far better condition than Sandy Valley Road. Proper maintenance of roads is required of towns by state law. With this letter I formally request that the town perform the maintenance required by law and repave Sandy Valley Road consistent with maintenance the town has done on these other streets.

The poor condition of Sandy Valley Road is further compounded by severe ice built up in winter and an almost continuous flow of water in the other seasons. The problem is caused by water emitted from the property at 461 Sandy Valley Road. The town has a responsibility to either fix this drainage problem or to hold the owner of the house at 461 Sandy Valley Road responsible for it.

The ice makes passage by vehicles and pedestrians treacherous. Ice dams form and potholes become even deeper, causing damage to cars as they pass and the very real possibility of accidents. Cars skid and people slip and fall, including children walking to and from the school bus stop at the end of the road.

In the interest of safety through the winter months, I ask that the town monitor this situation daily, applying sand and salt as necessary and removing the ice build-up on a regular basis.

The water emitted at 461 Sandy Valley Road used to flow from a point in the lawn, over the driveway, and into the road. Last fall, the owners installed a pipe that comes to a concealed exit into gravel under the stone wall. From there, the water runs north under the driveway to a point near the fire hydrant where it flows onto the road, creating an icy mess. The water then crosses the road and runs untreated into the wetlands.

The town can and should require the owners of 461 Sandy Valley Road to collect this water in catch basins to recharge it into the ground or to channel the water through proper

underground drainage to a destination that does not coat the road in ice. Since construction was done in what appears to be a wetland area and the water discharges to wetlands this work should be done with oversight and approval of the Westwood Conservation Commission to ensure wetland resource areas are not damaged.

Please provide a written response to this letter stating the town's intentions.

Sincerely,

Michael Newman

Cc: Conservation Commission (hand delivered to Carby St.)  
Town Manager (hand delivered to Town Hall)  
Town Selectmen (hand delivered to Town Hall)  
Craig Foscaldo (by email)  
Duncan McFarland (by email)  
Stephen Pelligrino (by email)  
Dan Hill, esq. (by email)