

Alan Arsenault, Director of Public Works
4540 South County Trail
Charlestown, RI. 02813
Telephone: (401) 364-1230 Fax: (401) 364-1238

Department of
Public Works



TOWN OF CHARLESTOWN

Memo

To: The Honorable Town Council

CC: Mark Stankiewicz, Town Administrator

FROM: Alan A. Arsenault, Director of Public Works 

SUBJ: Notice of Public Meeting – Burdickville Road Reconstruction

DATE: July 14, 2016

This memorandum provides the Town Council notification of a Public Meeting scheduled at Charlestown Town Hall at 7:00 PM., Monday, August 15, 2016 for the purpose of presenting plans for reconstruction of Burdickville Road from the Hopkinton Town Line to its' intersection with Shumankanuc Hill Road (approximately 5,750LF).

Construction plans will be displayed, and Dowdell Engineering Inc, the design engineers, will make a presentation of the project. The presentation will allow ample opportunity for public comment, and the engineers will address concerns presented in person or in written form. By this process, it is my hope that a consensus will be achieved, which will improve the road and allow the finished road to incorporate the expectations of the residents.

It is my sincere hope that any plan changes will be minor, and accomplished at this meeting. Should substantial modification of the plan be indicated, the plans can be appropriately changed within realistic budgetary limits and additional meeting(s) convened.

AAA/bjl

BURDICKVILLE ROAD

TOWN OF CHARLESTOWN, RI

Parcel ID	Site Address	Owner Name	Mailing Address	Mailing City	Mailing State	Mailing Zip
21-16-1	105 BURDICKVILLE ROAD	JARRET EDWARD L & COLETTA J	105 BURDICKVILLE ROAD	CHARLESTOWN	RI	02813-0000
21-16-2	109 BURDICKVILLE ROAD	BARBER JANICE L	109 BURDICKVILLE ROAD	CHARLESTOWN	RI	02813-0000
21-16-3	117 BURDICKVILLE ROAD	LAVALLEE GILBERT E+BEVERLY S LIFE ESTATE	117 BURDICKVILLE ROAD	CHARLESTOWN	RI	02813-0000
21-16-4	125 BURDICKVILLE ROAD	MONTMARQUET TIMOTHY & SHEPPARD,JAN	125 BURDICKVILLE ROAD	CHARLESTOWN	RI	02813-0000
21-16-5	129 BURDICKVILLE ROAD	PELUSSEY ALAN R	129 BURDICKVILLE ROAD	CHARLESTOWN	RI	02813-0000
21-16-6	135 BURDICKVILLE ROAD	AMATORE JOSEPH J & GAIL M	135 BURDICKVILLE ROAD	CHARLESTOWN	RI	02813-0000
21-16-7	141 BURDICKVILLE ROAD	MEADE THOMAS & MARIE A	P O BOX 398	BRADFORD	RI	02808-0000
21-19	148 BURDICKVILLE ROAD	AMATORE JOSEPH J + GAIL M +	148 BURDICKVILLE ROAD	CHARLESTOWN	RI	02813-0000
21-18-1	150 BURDICKVILLE ROAD	DAY LORRAINE	150 BURDICKVILLE ROAD	CHARLESTOWN	RI	02813-0000
21-16-9	153 BURDICKVILLE ROAD	JARRET KAREN & MICHAEL R	153 BURDICKVILLE ROAD	CHARLESTOWN	RI	02813-0000
21-20	154 BURDICKVILLE ROAD	LEITE JOSE F JR & KAREN M	154 BURDICKVILLE ROAD	CHARLESTOWN	RI	02813-0000
21-16-10	161 BURDICKVILLE ROAD	LILL BRETT C + CHERYL A	161 BURDICKVILLE ROAD	CHARLESTOWN	RI	02813-0000
21-15	169 BURDICKVILLE ROAD	TOTTI MARY A	169 BURDICKVILLE ROAD	CHARLESTOWN	RI	02813-0000
21-14	171 BURDICKVILLE ROAD	DIONNE SETH H + LAURA A	171 BURDICKVILLE ROAD	CHARLESTOWN	RI	02813-0000
21-13	185 BURDICKVILLE ROAD	FALLON WILLIAM E TRUST	P O BOX 319	BRADFORD	RI	02808-0000
21-24	230 BURDICKVILLE ROAD	RHODE ISLAND STATE OF {DEM}	230 BURDICKVILLE ROAD	CHARLESTOWN	RI	02813-0000
21-11	279 BURDICKVILLE ROAD	NATICK FACTOR LLC	1430 MAIN STREET	WEST WARWICK	RI	02893-0000
21-26-301	314 BURDICKVILLE ROAD	JOHNSON WALTER H III + KIMBERLY E	109 TUNNEL HILL DR	BALL GROUND	GA	30107-0000
21-7	317 BURDICKVILLE ROAD	ADAMS MICHAEL T + CAROLYN M	317 BURDICKVILLE ROAD	CHARLESTOWN	RI	02813-3222-0000
21-26-302	318 BURDICKVILLE ROAD	RUBOLOTTA LORI J	318 BURDICKVILLE ROAD	CHARLESTOWN	RI	02813-0000
21-26-300	320 BURDICKVILLE ROAD	BROWN STEPHEN E	320 BURDICKVILLE ROAD	CHARLESTOWN	RI	02813-0000
21-7-1	331 BURDICKVILLE ROAD	SMITH KELLY A & LYNN S	331 BURDICKVILLE ROAD	CHARLESTOWN	RI	02813-0000
21-26-1	332 BURDICKVILLE ROAD	BUDNIK REVOCABLE LIVING TRUST-2013	332 BURDICKVILLE ROAD	CHARLESTOWN	RI	02813-0000
18-37	63 BURDICKVILLE ROAD	ARZAMARKSI SCOTT C + NANCY J	63 BURDICKVILLE ROAD	CHARLESTOWN	RI	02813-0000
21-18	70 BURDICKVILLE ROAD	DURNING KEVIN A + JANE-FRANCIS	70 BURDICKVILLE ROAD	CHARLESTOWN	RI	02813-0000
18-36	71 BURDICKVILLE ROAD	PABST ROBERT J & CAROLINE E	PO BOX 281	ASHAWAY	RI	02804-0000
18-35	75 BURDICKVILLE ROAD	GRAY SEAN A + RONNETT M	75 BURDICKVILLE ROAD	CHARLESTOWN	RI	02813-0000
18-13	85 BURDICKVILLE ROAD	BRACKEN JAMES H & KATHLEEN T	85 BURDICKVILLE RD	CHARLESTOWN	RI	02813-0000
18-12	89 BURDICKVILLE ROAD	MADERIA MANUEL P JR & HARRIET K	89 BURDICKVILLE ROAD	CHARLESTOWN	RI	02813-0000
21-18-A	90 BURDICKVILLE ROAD	DAY KEVIN A + JANE FRANCIS	90 BURDICKVILLE ROAD	CHARLESTOWN	RI	02813-0000
18-11	91 BURDICKVILLE ROAD	UNKURI IDA B LIFE ESTATE	91 BURDICKVILLE ROAD	CHARLESTOWN	RI	02813-0000



18-9	93A BURDICKVILLE ROAD	MONTEITH KATHLYN H	93A BURDICKVILLE ROAD	CHARLESTOWN	RI	02813-0000
18-8	93B BURDICKVILLE ROAD	HIGGINS CLYDE RICHARD	93B BURDICKVILLE ROAD	CHARLESTOWN	RI	02813-0000
18-7	93C BURDICKVILLE ROAD	SMITH LESTER JR & NAOMI LIFE EST	93C BURDICKVILLE ROAD	CHARLESTOWN	RI	02813-0000
21-16	93E BURDICKVILLE ROAD	LILL BRETT C	161 BURDICKVILLE ROAD	CHARLESTOWN	RI	02813-3220-0000
21-10	BURDICKVILLE ROAD	RHODE ISLAND STATE OF {DEM}	2321 HARTFORD AVENUE	JOHNSTON	RI	02919-0000
21-21	BURDICKVILLE ROAD	RHODE ISLAND STATE OF {DEM}	2321 HARTFORD AVENUE	JOHNSTON	RI	02919-0000
21-TRA-K	BURDICKVILLE ROAD	NATIONAL RAILROAD PASSENGER CO	1400 NORTH CAPITAL ST N W	WASHINGTON	DC	20001-0000
21-12	BURDICKVILLE ROAD	NATURE CONSERVANCY THE	4245 FAIRFAX DRIVE	ARLINGTON	VA	22203-0000
21-16-11	BURDICKVILLE ROAD	JARRET KAREN	153 BURDICKVILLE ROAD	CHARLESTOWN	RI	02813-0000
21-22	BURDICKVILLE ROAD	NARRAGANSETT ELECTRIC COMPANY	40 SYLVAN ROAD	WALTHAM	MA	02451-2286-0000
21-26-4	BURDICKVILLE ROAD	HOLLAND HENRY A JR	31C HIGH ST	ASHAWAY	RI	02804-1506-0000
21-17	BURDICKVILLE ROAD	RHODE ISLAND STATE OF {DEM}	235 PROMENADE STREET	PROVIDENCE	RI	02908-0000
18-40	OFF BURDICKVILLE ROAD	RYAN LEONARD A	11195 FULMAR RD	BROOKSVILLE	FL	34614-0000

From: Seth Dionne [<mailto:shdionne@gmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, August 03, 2016 10:08 AM
To: Alan Arsenaault <AArsenaault@charlestownri.org>
Subject: Proposed Burdickville Road Work

Dear Alan,

I am writing this email in opposition to any "improvements" to Burdickville Road. I am a resident of Burdickville Road (13 years), partly because of the narrow, windy country feel. I was heartbroken years ago when the first yellow lines were painted down the middle. I actually considered moving. Any "improvements" to Burdickville Road will surely encourage more speeding. Conversations with other neighbors are in agreement that any work (other than minor resurfacing) would be unwelcome and a waste of taxpayers money. Please reconsider any work on Burdickville and please let the yellow paint fade away. Let's keep Charlestown beautiful.

Thanks, Seth Dionne
171 Burdickville Road
401-213-6617

From: Seth Dionne
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2016 12:21 PM
To: tom.gentz@charlestownri.org
Subject: Burdickville Road "Improvements"

Dear Thomas Gentz,

I attended the meeting Monday night with Alan Arseneault and the project engineer along with several of my neighbors from Burdickville Road. Most of us in attendance were opposed to these "improvements", only one household embraced the project.

While no one seemed to oppose the improved drainage, only one person in attendance approved of widening the road.

The general consensus is that we like our road to be narrow and bumpy. It helps keep traffic to a minimum and people travel slower than they would on a smooth widened road (average speed by my house seems to be around 30 mph, but we do get the occasional 70 mph from the Amtrak bridge past the swamp). Take out the bumps and it is a sure thing that the average travel speed will increase to 40 mph like Shumancanuc and Buckeye Brook.

The proposed "improvements" also call for removing ledge from both sides of the road in front of my house. If the removal of ledge requires blasting-- there are no guarantees that it will not affect our old foundations and wells. We like the moss covered ledge on the corner of our property it has 4 or 5 mature trees growing right on its edge that will need to be removed for the improvements.

Any of these so called "improvements" posed to improve the safety of our road are just an illusion as cars will now drive faster. The danger for pedestrians and other drivers will be the same if not worse than they are now. We like our road as-is, in fact the small country feel of Burdickville road is one of the reasons we moved here. Please spend the \$1.6 million somewhere else.

I urge you to consider readdressing this Burdickville Road Improvement Project. Allow the residents of Burdickville to vote for or against it with "improvements" itemized. I'm sure a compromised, more affordable version can pass, but as it stands--we do not want this.

Thank you,
Seth Dionne
171 Burdickville Road
Charlestown, RI 02813
401-213-6617

From: Jane Durning [mailto:durning70@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, August 18, 2014 11:14 PM
To: Alan Arsenault
Subject: Burdickville Road

Mr. Arsenault

I would like to make a suggestion / request a project.

I live on Burdickville Road in Charlestown. My parents live at 90 Burdickville Road and in front of their house is a water collection run off gully. It has been there for many years. Would it be possible for the DPW to dig out the gully, put in a drain pipe & stones, geo textile over the top, fill it in with loam so that the area can be mowed all the way to the street. It would be fantastic if you ran the pipe all the way from the top of the gully to the bottom of the hill into the runoff outlet drain area.

There is always significant water running down the road after a hard rain or from melting snow. This area has been a problem for a number of years, we have just dealt with it but I believe that the DPW could make this a more useful drain area if this gully were improved.

Thank you for considering this project, please e-mail me if you have any further questions.

Thanks

Jane Durning
70 Burdickville Road
Charlestown RI 02813

From: Alan Arsenault
Sent: Tuesday, August 19, 2014 10:46 AM
To: Jane Durning
Cc: Mark Stankiewicz; Bonnie Langlois
Subject: RE: Burdickville Road

Dear Ms. Durning,

Thanks for your kind email.
Please send me your telephone number so we
can discuss the subject more completely.

Thanks,
Alan

From: Tom Gentz
Sent: Wednesday, August 24, 2016 5:36 PM
To: Seth Dionne
Cc: Tom Gentz
Subject: Re: Burdickville Road "Improvements"

Dear Mr. Dionne,

Thank you for your email concerning the maintenance of Burdickville Rd.

I have spoken to the DPW Director and the Town Administrator about your email and its contents.

If we do not maintain the roads in Charlestown, we have a liability to our citizens and there will be a deterioration of our excellent road system. While there is some minor widening, one foot here, two feet there in some places, the design is to make the road safer.

The Town just completed Klondike Road. I recommend you drive the full length of the new road to see how much better it is now, and how much safer. The Town Administrator states that speed is not a factor on any road that the Town has improved for safety purposes.

The Town repaves and improves all the Town roads approximately every 15 years. If Burdickville Rd. misses this cycle, the road will be impassable before that 15 year period has passed. The Town must maintain our system of roads as you can understand.

Additionally, maintenance of roads includes what lies below the road surface. Burdickville Rd. has some old aluminum culverts that must be replaced with concrete culverts or the road may collapse. No one wants to see that happen.

Any ledge the Town removes will be only on the Town's right of way. That is also a safety measure as you can imagine. If a car hits the exposed ledge, imagine the liability. The removed ledge will provide Rip Rap for the side of the roads.

In summary, the Town has engineered the repaving of Burdickville Rd. the same way other roads have been done historically in Charlestown. Our DPW department under the direction of perhaps the finest DPW Director in the State of Rhode Island has considered safety, speed and long term benefits to the Town of Charlestown and its residents in all the work they perform.

I am sure you can see the difference in Charlestown and other local communities when the snow flies, as our roads are maintained for the benefit of Charlestown's citizens better than others.

Sincerely,

Tom Gentz
Town Council President

Charlestown Town Council
Charlestown Town Hall
4540 South County Trail
Charlestown, RI 02853



August 25, 2016

Dear Council Members,

For residents of Burdickville Road, speeding is a problem. The Public Works Department plans to spend \$1.04 million to make it worse.

Burdickville Road serves as a shortcut between Route 1 and Route 91. Many commuters use our rural road to reach Interstate Route 95. Many of them speed.

Several Burdickville Road residents keep farm animals, including chickens, dairy goats, cattle, horses, as well as many dogs. Occasionally, those animals escape and go to the road. Speeders already have killed some of them.

Cyclists, exercise walkers, and hikers on the North South Trail also use Burdickville Road. Speeders threaten them, too.

During a public meeting on August 15, the Public Works Department unveiled its plans to spend \$1.04 million to widen the road and smooth its surface.

An overwhelming majority of Burdickville Road residents who attended the meeting are opposed to the plan.

Why? Some of us are worried about blasting affecting our wells. Others believe the project would destroy Burdickville Road's rural character.

We're all worried about an increase in traffic and more speeding.

Public Works Director Alan Arsenault told us to call the police. He essentially said, "That's not my job."

Traffic control is his job, as well as the Police Department's. Slowing speeders requires three elements: engineering, education and enforcement. "Traffic taming" is an established discipline in civil engineering, Director Arsenault, however, said there was nothing he could do about speeding. Call the cops, he said.

The residents of Burdickville Road acknowledge that the road needs repairs, particularly replacement of a culvert in a swampy area, and the elimination of a hazardous curve at Riverside Farm.

Otherwise, we're happy with the road as it is, bumps and all.

Spending \$1.04 million to increase speeding on Burdickville Road is certainly unnecessary and possibly deadly.

Please stop the plan.

With gratitude for your service,

Tom Meade
141 BURDICKVILLE RD.
Marie A. Meade
141 Burdickville Rd

Charlestown 161 BURDICKVILLE
-Chris Ladd
161 BURDICKVILLE ROAD

From: [Karen Jarret](#)
Sent: Wednesday, September 07, 2016 5:33 PM
To: [Tom Gentz](#)
Cc: [Karen Jarret](#) ; [Seth Dionne](#)
Subject: Re: Burdickville Road

Hello Tom,

Hope this email finds you well and looking forward to autumn weather. (This is Michael just using Karen's email)

Thank you for your reply to Seth's email regarding Burdickville Rd., but there are a couple of points that are not quite accurate.

"The Town Administrator states that speed is not a factor on any road that the Town has improved for safety purposes." Alan may well think that is true, but speed is most definitely a factor on both Buckeye Brook and Klondike. I have heard students regaling friends with stories of how they challenge themselves to see how fast they can go on both of those roads.

"...some minor widening, one foot here, two feet there in some places, the design is to make the road safer." I walk one mile of Burdickville every day - twice actually, once in one direction, then back - and I am sure that one way to make it safer would be to NOT put a new surface on it. It is a through-street for many travelers between Rt 1 and Rt 95, and some already drive way too fast. Moving ledge a foot or two further back from where it now is, won't matter much to the speeding car that careens well off the roadway.

"...maintenance of roads includes what lies below the road surface." No one is arguing that there are specific spots that need work; they are the culvert at the swamp, the culvert and hill at the Durning farm.

"...some minor widening, one foot here, two feet there in some places." We have looked at the proposed work, we listened to Bill (Dowdell) and Alan at their presentation. It really isn't as minor as you assert. The work will profoundly affect the rural nature and feel of our neighborhoods. Additionally, this "minor widening" will require blasting, which has shown in other communities to directly effect well function. As you know, we all are on wells.

For these points and others, please consider a compromise solution that will repair the two culverts areas but does not create a speedway, does not detract from the rural nature of our road, and does not threaten our water flow.

Warmly,
Michael J.

On Sep 9, 2016, at 9:32 AM, Tom Meade <tmeade@outlook.com> wrote:

Dear Council Members,

In these digital times, conventional printed letters sometimes get overlooked, so our neighbors and we are going to try e-mail, hoping that you will respond. Here's what we said in a letter mailed through the postal service on August 25:

Charlestown Town Council

Charlestown Town Hall

4540 South County Trail Charlestown, RI 02853

Dear Council Members,

For residents of Burdickville Road, speeding is a problem. The Public Works Department plans to spend \$1.04 million to make it worse.

Burdickville Road serves as a shortcut between Route 1 and Route 91. Many commuters use our rural road to reach Interstate Route 95. Many of them speed.

Several Burdickville Road residents keep farm animals, including chickens, dairy goats, cattle, horses, as well as many dogs. Occasionally, those animals escape and go to the road. Speeders already have killed some of them.

Cyclists, exercise walkers, and hikers on the North South Trail also use Burdickville Road. Speeders threaten them, too.

During a public meeting on August 15, the Public Works Department unveiled its plans to spend \$1.04 million to widen the road and smooth its surface.

An overwhelming majority of Burdickville Road residents who attended the meeting are opposed to the plan.

Why? Some of us are worried about blasting affecting our wells. Others believe the project would destroy Burdickville Road's rural character.

We're all worried about an increase in traffic and more speeding.

Public Works Director Alan Arsenault told us to call the police. He essentially said, "That's not my job."

Traffic control *is* his job, as well as the Police Department's. Slowing speeders requires three elements: engineering, education and enforcement. "Traffic taming" is an established discipline in civil engineering, Director Arsenault, however, said there was nothing he could do about speeding. Call the cops, he said.

The residents of Burdickville Road acknowledge that the road needs repairs, particularly replacement of a culvert in a swampy area, and the elimination of a hazardous curve at Riverside Farm.

Otherwise, we're happy with the road as it is, bumps and all.

Spending \$1.04 million to increase speeding on Burdickville Road is certainly unnecessary and possibly deadly.

Please stop the plan.

With gratitude for your service,

**Marie Meade, 141 Burdickville Road
Tom Meade, 141 Burdickville Road
Cheryl Lill, 161 Burdickville Road
Brett C. Lill, 161 Burdickville Road**

Thank you for your attention to the speeding problem we face on Burdickville Road. We look forward to your response.

When you do respond, please do not compare Burdickville Road to Klondike Road as Mr. Gentz has done in an email to our neighbor Seth Dionne. Such a comparison is specious for a variety of reasons which we outlined in the meeting with Mr Arsenault:

**Klondike Road is not a shortcut for commuters as Burdickville Road is.
Klondike Road does not have the number of farm animals that we do on Burdickville Road.
Klondike Road is much more curvy than Burdickville Road. If the Public Works Department is willing to include a chicane or two to slow traffic on Burdickville Road, then, perhaps, a comparison might be more reasonable.**

However, as it stands, it appears that bureaucrats in Charlestown are determined to make Burdickville Road more dangerous, and the president of the council is unwilling to listen to voting residents.

We're not opposed to changes in the road. We are simply asking the town to engage engineers who will help slow traffic. Traffic taming is being practiced all over the world. It's an engineers problem, not a police problem.

In Charlestown, it is time for our elected representatives to consider the wishes of voters and to encourage more creativity in public works projects.

Thank you.

**Brett C. Lill
Cheryl Lill
Marie Meade
Tom Meade**

From: George Tremblay
Sent: Friday, September 09, 2016 3:20 PM
To: Tom Meade; Mark Stankiewicz
Cc: Tom Gentz; Virginia Lee; Denise Rhodes; Bonnie Van Slyke; brettclill@aol.com
Subject: Re: Burdickville Road

We're not ignoring you or other residents of Burdickville Road. We're listening to contrary arguments made by the Director of Public Works and our Town Administrator. While I've told the TA that I am sympathetic to your plea, I find the contrary arguments offered by these professionals to be persuasive. Delayed maintenance is fraught with unnecessary hazards, and greater long-term costs for repairs. I suggest you impress upon the TA and DPW Director public support for incorporating speed-control measures when repairing the roadway. Sorry to disappoint, but it's hard to ignore the cold reality of the municipal responsibilities.

George Tremblay

From: Tom Gentz <tbgentz@cox.net>
Sent: Saturday, September 10, 2016 9:37 AM
To: Tom Meade
Cc: brettclill@aol.com; Tom Gentz
Subject: Re: Burdickville Road

Dear Mr. Meade,

I appreciate your email along with the other positive and negative comments about the maintenance of Burdickville Rd.

I would like to meet with you in the middle of next week after I work with the Town to obtain speed trailer information about the roads you mention in your email.

We could meet at your home or Town Hall, which ever is more convenient to you.

Sincerely,

Tom

From: Tom Gentz <tbgentz@cox.net>
Sent: Saturday, September 10, 2016 9:41 AM
To: Jeff Allen
Cc: Mark Stankiewicz; Tom Gentz
Subject: Fw: Burdickville Road

Hi Chief,

Here is the email about speeding on Klondike and Buckeye Brook Roads. You may wish to patrol those two roads based upon this email. Mr. Jarret lives on Burdickville Rd.

If you have speed data on both those roads, I would appreciate it for my potential meeting with Mr. Meade.

Thanks, Tom

From: Karen Jarret <kjarret@cox.net>
Sent: Tuesday, September 27, 2016 11:41 AM
To: Alan Arsenault
Subject: Burdickville Road

Hello there Alan,

I have fielded several questions from concerned neighbors but please answer this one:

Where will the \$ for reconstructing Burdickville Road come from? Is it Town funds, taxpayer dollars or State DOT funding, also taxpayer dollars?

Thanks Alan,

Karen

From: Alan Arsenault
Sent: Tuesday, September 27, 2016 12:34 PM
To: Karen Jarret
Cc: Bonnie Langlois
Subject: RE: Burdickville Road

Hello Karen,

Burdickville Road reconstruction funds were approved in the Charlestown 2016-17 Capital budget, and as you correctly pointed out, All government spending is taxpayer dollars.

Thanks,

Alan

Burdickville Road residents air road-work concerns

Burdickville Road residents air road-work concerns

October 14, 2016 12:36AM

By Catherine Hewitt Sun staff writer

CHARLESTOWN — Several residents of Burdickville Road asked the Town Council Tuesday to cancel an upcoming road construction project on their street, citing problems with speeding, pedestrian safety, and quality of life.

The town plans to chipseal Burdickville Road and widen it in places, which may involve removing ledge by blasting.

Town Administrator Mark Stankiewicz said that the \$1.04 million project has been in the queue since 2015 and is the last of two major roads, the other being Old Mill Road, that needs to be repaved. The project will also include replacing old aluminum culverts with concrete ones.

The project was not on the council's agenda, but residents addressed the council during the "items not on the agenda" portion of the meeting.

Calling it "the million-dollar mile," Burdickville Road resident Tom Meade, who came to the meeting with his wife, Marie Meade, said the project had been "dumped" on the road's residents in August without a proper public hearing.

"We're beseeching the council to put the issue on the agenda," he said. "Destroying our lovely rural road without first consulting home and farm owners is nothing short of bureaucratic arrogance."

Meade added that speeding was already a problem and would be exacerbated by widening the road.

Seth Dion, a resident for 14 years, said that he and his neighbors like the street because it is "quiet, narrow, hilly, windy and bumpy" and cited worries about damage from blasting to his well and house foundation.

"The proposed improvements will certainly take away from the rural charm that Burdickville still has and negatively affect some of the subjective curb appeal that attracted us to the area originally," he said. "The proposal includes reducing the ledge on both sides of the road in front of my house to make the road wider. If the town is going to force these road

improvements, then the town would pay to document all of our wells and foundations prior to the work.”

Resident Michael Jarrett echoed Meade and Dion’s concerns, adding that he and his neighbors were in favor of replacing the culverts but against widening the road.

Town Council Vice President George Tremblay said he enjoyed the rural nature of the road and had a number of questions because he had received emails from residents about the project.

“I take that road for the very reason that they’re talking about — it is beautiful, scenic, slow-moving and there’s a connection with nature along that road,” he said. “I don’t know why we have to do this — I understand the arguments about safety but is there a history of accidents on that road?”

Tremblay asked that the issue be placed on a future council agenda.

Stankiewicz said Wednesday that if the project is not done, the road would deteriorate for another five to 10 years, ultimately costing far more than the original design.

“This is about future cost avoidance — fixing the road prior to the road failing,” he said. “We’re custodians of the residents’ tax dollars and we want to spend those dollars wisely.”

He also questioned who would be responsible if all or part of the project were canceled.

“Doing nothing isn’t the answer, and you cannot choose parts of the total project — if a lot of design changes are made then the engineer won’t take responsibility for it,” he said. “Someone is ultimately responsible for the road, and we can’t transfer responsibility onto the neighbors on Burdickville Road.”

Hearing from everyone on the road was also important to Stankiewicz, who said he was willing to meet with residents to discuss the project further.

“Does everyone on the road feel the same way?” he said. “If they feel they haven’t been heard, we’re willing to consider having another informational meeting.”

Meade commented by phone Wednesday evening that he and his neighbors wanted the project to be added to the next Town Council agenda and reiterated that he was against widening the road but in favor of the other improvements.

chewitt@thewesterlysun.com