

Press Release

September 18, 2019

Guiderail Placement

DPW and Facilities Director Chris Burney and Town Engineer Frank Smeriglio have received and reviewed the consultant's report regarding placement factors for the installation of guiderails. The Town's guiderail placement standards were incomplete and do not take into account the many roadway and roadside characteristic scenarios. When we apply the more comprehensive State guiderail standards – roadway speed, roadside heights, etc. are taken into account. The State guiderail standards have resulted in the ability to remove guiderails on both Wild Duck and Woods End. At this time, we do not know if other town wide guiderails can be removed, but going forward the town will no longer rely on an existing guiderail as evidence that a guiderail is needed.

During Streetscan's recent scanning of town-owned roads, the company also captured data about guiderails. We intend to contract with Streetscan to translate that data into inventory and mapping, similar to what was provided for the roads. This will provide the department with the necessary database to begin evaluating guiderails.

We are removing the guiderails on Wild Duck and Woods End. Residents have been notified.

Options for guiderail materials will still be presented at Monday's Board of Selectmen meeting.

Chris Burney and Frank Smeriglio would like to express their appreciation to the residents of Wild Duck and Woods End for bringing this matter to their attention, thus allowing the department to change its practices and improve service to the community going forward. Chris Burney stated, "This is exactly as it should happen. Residents raise a concern, the Town investigates and, where possible, makes improvements benefiting all residents."

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