

**HIGH STREET HILL ASSOCIATION**  
**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

*SERVING OUR NEIGHBORHOOD SINCE 1958*

June 15, 2005

Dear Board of Selectmen:

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OF DIRECTORS**

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We are writing on behalf of our neighborhood to bring to your attention important issues concerning the volume and speed of traffic on Pond Avenue.

One condition of the renovation of Olmsted Park and the closing of Riverdale Road in 1996 was the commitment of the Town to provide safe crossing from the High Street Hill neighborhood across Pond Avenue to the park. At that time a variety of traffic calming and control devices were designed and installed. Some have been effective, some have not been maintained and some have not worked at all. Other than the sidewalk bumpouts along Pond Avenue and the flashing yellow light at Highland Road, there is little that contributes to a sense of safe crossing. In addition, the painted crossings at Cumberland and Allerton Streets have worn off.

Over the years the volume of traffic has increased and has turned what should be a quiet side street into a busy thoroughfare. Vehicles entering from Route 9 accelerate as they pass the Brook House and enter the straightaway between the two crosswalks, exceeding the posted speed limit signs. Although police enforcement has been an effective means of slowing the increased number of cars and busses that use Pond Avenue as a through street, the overall effect has been minor because of the infrequency of such enforcement. We feel that a traffic assessment during the school year should be performed as a first step in an overall evaluation.

We've noticed that a large portion of Pond Avenue is included in the high priority Gateway East area plan. Considering the importance of this link for area traffic flow, Olmsted Park, and above all the safety of the neighborhood residents, we feel it is time for the Town to reaffirm its original commitment to ensure that Pond Ave remain a safe neighborhood street. The continued vitality of the now restored Olmsted Park depends on a strong connection to the neighborhood. We look forward to working with the Town to make sure that link isn't broken.

Respectfully,

Rob Daves  
President, HSHA

Cc: Richard Kelliher, Town Administrator  
Fred Levitan, Chair, Brookline Transportation Board  
David Friend, Assistant Director for Transportation