



Town of Lancaster

Department of Public Safty

1053 Main Street
Lancaster, MA 01523



Everett L. Moody
Commissioner of Public safety

Public Safety 13 Neck Road development comments

We appreciate the site changes made and the willingness to collaborate with the community in addressing public safety concerns. One of the issues still facing our department is the access through the parking area. This access is crucial in supporting the safety of the residents and guests of the development and our responding staff. We would like a solid plan in place that assures an unobstructed width of not less than 20 feet, and a vertical clearance of not less than 13 feet 6 inches always maintained. The current plan shows an access width of 20 feet, but this plan would require that vehicles are no longer than 18 feet in length, (crew cab Pick-ups are 20 feet, suburban over 19 feet). The radius of the turn in the parking area suggests it was designed for a truck smaller than Lancaster's current ladder truck. This current design plan will require every inch of the twenty feet to successfully navigate through the already tight parking area. The parking design also requires diagonal parking that has curbing which will limit the ability to pull forward beyond the sidewalk and make it difficult to use a plow to stack snow onto the elevated area. Our concern is that parked cars, curbs, and snow piles during the winter months of New England will ultimately and unavoidably prohibit our emergency access or ability to deploy the stabilization supports on our equipment. It is also important to request the assurance that the vertical clearance will not be reduced by items such as trees, power lines, or decorative lighting. The plans show trees along the property line, that if not addressed will impact the snow storage area and as shown on the plans, obstruct the 20-foot access route.

According to the current plan, sidewalk access is limited to two points of ramped access, meaning, when all the parking spots are full, public safety responders will have to navigate narrow passages to gain access to patients before care can begin. This will impact the ability to gain access to life saving equipment in emergency situations. Imagine a stretcher carrying a patient from their home, trying to manipulate through limited access.

We feel strongly that the curbing on the Neck Road access should reflect the wider radius from both directions, Lancaster relies heavily on our mutual aid partners, it is highly likely that we would see responders from Bolton looking to enter the parking area from Neck Road opposite Center Bridge Rd.

Everett L. Moody