

Montague Planning Board

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March 3, 2016

Mr. Michael Nelson
Chairman, Board of Selectmen
One Avenue A Turners Falls, MA 01376

RE: Planning Board Petition for Zoning Amendment to Zoning Bylaw Section 6.3.3

Mr. Nelson,

In accordance with M.G.L. Ch 40A Section 5, The Montague Planning Board is writing to petition the Board of Selectmen to initiate a zoning bylaw amendment to section 6.3.3 pertaining to driveway regulations for residences with a setback of 500 feet or more from an accepted way.

The Board is considering a zoning amendment that would do three things:

- 1) Reduce the minimum width of a driveway serving a home 500 feet from the road from 20 to 16 feet
- 2) Require passing turnouts every 300 feet. (For example, a house that is 501 feet from the road must have one turnout)
- 3) Allow relief by special permit from the Planning Board.

The current bylaw reads:

“6.3.3 For Residences with a setback of 500 feet or more from an accepted way, a driveway for such residence must have a grade of no greater than 10%, a curve radius not less than 30 feet, a turnaround area with a minimum 30 foot turn around radius and that the driveway be no less than 20 feet in width over its entire length.”

The proposed text reads:

“6.3.3 For Residences with a setback of 500 feet or more from an accepted way, a driveway for such residence must have a grade of no greater than 10%, a curve radius not less than 30 feet, **passing turnouts with a width of 20 feet and length of 35 feet that are spaced no more than 300 feet between turnouts or terminus of the driveway,** a turnaround area with a minimum 30 foot turn around radius and that the driveway be no less than **16** feet in width over its entire length. **The Planning Board may issue a Special Permit to allow relief for any of the requirements in this section.**”

At your earliest convenience, please return this proposed amendment to the Planning Board for review and public hearing.

On behalf of the Planning Board,



Walter Ramsey, AICP
Town Planner