

## Article 29

This Article requests acceptance of Woodside Avenue as a public way. Upon acceptance as a public way, the Town will assume ownership of the road and responsibility for its upkeep, as it does for all accepted ways. Woodside Avenue is in Precinct A. The road runs from Cedarbrook Road north to Upson Road, and through Upson and Colby Roads connects to Mayo Road and Weston Road. The acceptance of Woodside Avenue was on the warrant for the 2006 ATM, but no motion was made at that meeting, because of uncertainty on allocating costs of street acceptances between the Town and abutters. The Board of Selectmen has subsequently adopted the Town of Wellesley Street Acceptance Policy. Under the Street Acceptance Policy Woodside Avenue is a Type 2 street (private way with a significant level of public usage). Under the policy, the Town would assume 75% and the abutters would bear 25% of the costs to improve a Type 2 street in order to make it an acceptable public way. The estimated cost of improving the street is \$427,505.

Advisory reviewed the newly adopted Town of Wellesley Street Acceptance Policy. The policy is, by intent, responsive in nature and Advisory believes that is the correct approach. There was some concern that in this particular case, a more proactive approach might have been taken as Woodside merges into Cedarbrook, another private road. However, the abutters on Cedarbrook have not petitioned the Selectmen for a street acceptance. Although not all of the abutters on Woodside petitioned for the street acceptance, the 75% policy requirement was met.

Since the Woodside Avenue request was originally made over a year ago, the estimated cost of the project has risen substantially, due in large part to cost increases of petroleum-based products. Abutters felt that the increase in the project cost was the result of the Town decision to defer action on their request and since under the new policy, the abutters absorb 25% of the cost, the Selectmen agreed to charge the abutters 25% of the original cost estimate rather than 25% of the current cost. The Town will pay 75% of the original cost and all of the cost increase, totaling \$344,792. Advisory believes this is a reasonable compromise. Lastly, based upon financial conditions for FY08, the Board of Selectmen determined that this project is affordable and Advisory agrees.

**Advisory recommends favorable action, 12 to 0.**