

Public Comment Statement for Town of Exeter Select Board Meeting
Monday, June 7, 2021, 6:30pm

RE: Swasey Parkway Vehicle Access

Dear Select Board Members,

For decades, Swasey Parkway has been a treasured community site and gathering location for all citizens and visitors, with its abundant natural beauty and prime location in the heart of downtown Exeter. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the decision was made to close Swasey Park to vehicle traffic in an effort to provide more outdoor gathering space while mask and social distancing mandates were in effect. Now that these mandates have been lifted, there is ongoing discourse about the possibility of extending or making permanent the ban on vehicles in Swasey Parkway.

I firmly believe reopening Swasey Parkway to vehicle traffic is the best, most equitable course of action to the benefit of most community members. Our elderly and disabled residents rely on this vehicle access to make use of and enjoy this public space. Without the ability to drive and park along the roadway, many community members would not be able to enjoy the park at all. Parking outside of Swasey Parkway is often difficult to find, and many elderly and disabled residents would be unable to make the walk from their parking spot into the park area.

While closing Swasey Parkway to vehicle traffic may serve some Exeter residents, for the sake of serving all community members, it must remain open to vehicles.

Sincerely,

Frank Styles Jr
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