

11.23.2024

April –

As we discussed last week, the residents of Frances Drive – a one-way private street that connects from the end of Third Street to an intersection of Fourth Street – have a problem that we'd welcome your help to solve. It is owned by the River Run Condo Association – a 13-unit community – of which I serve as the Association president.

The problem is that our one-way private street is being used as a public cut-through from Third to Fourth (and vice versa) by both vehicles and pedestrians. And, since we have no way to enforce traffic laws, vehicles are often ignoring the do not enter signs at the end of Third Street and using our street as a cut-through in the wrong direction. While this is true for private vehicles, municipal vehicles and delivery trucks are also using our street as a cut-through in both directions.



The dead end of Third Street at Frances Drive. No where to go (legally).

This issue is exacerbated by the fact that there is no way to turn around at the end of Third street before entering our property and that the dead-end sign on Third Street at Grove is tiny and easily missed}.



Third Street at Grove facing dead end of Third Street at Frances Drive

Note that to park on the South side of the street, vehicles need to either cut through Frances Drive from Fourth Street, pass through Do Not Enter signs on Frances Drive at the end of Third Street to turn around, or cut through the 8 Grove parking lot. This issue is likely to get worse as new buildings are completed in the area.

Area residents are also using Frances Drive as a pedestrian and bicycle cut-through, creating an additional liability concern for our Association.

We've raised the possibility of converting Frances Drive to a town street with Chris Parker who has solicited feedback from public safety and the town engineer. While I understand that Public Safety (fire and police) are supportive, the town engineer has determined that the street does not meet current town standards for a public one-way street. So, according to Chris, this needs to be a council decision.



Intersection of Frances Drive and Fourth Street (Fifth Street is in the background)

I believe Frances Drive is in a unique situation in Dover because it is a private street that connects two public roads and serves as a public road. The only other example of this was Thornwood Lane, which was itself recently converted into a public street. I welcome any suggestions that you or the TAC may have and stand ready to meet to present the problem and answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Steve Goodman
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