

Presentation to the City Council Concerning the Acceptance of Thornwood Lane as a City Street
Nov. 28,2018

I'm Richard Spence, the Infrastructure Chair at Thornwood Commons. I reside at 8 Madelyn Dr.. I am here tonight with Joe Olsen from Preston Place. Together our two condominiums represent 62 individual homes in 55+ communities. We, as you can imagine, have specific safety needs that the City of Dover should consider.

My reason for being here centers on the timely acceptance of Thornwood Lane as a City road. I wish to take a moment and to thank Chris Parker and the people of Community Services, especially John Storer, for their assistance and advice along this long and winding road.

However, the acceptance process has dragged on for several years—slowed down by engineering and legal issues that we, as residents and taxpayers, thought were finally resolved. The acceptance of the road appeared to be on track for this 11/28 meeting, but again there is a holdup. I am not here to point fingers, but to urgently request results and the finalization, without further delay, of Thornwood Lane as a city road. I know that you only have two physical meetings a month, but once these last roadblocks are removed, do you have the capacity to make decisions via an electronic meeting?

I mentioned safety issues. Winter and the plowing season are upon us. Because most of our residents are active retirees, there are dog walkers, joggers, and walkers both day and night. With the building and occupation of Pointe Place, we are talking about an increase in use of Thornwood Lane well beyond the members of our condominiums.

Because Thornwood Lane is now open from Middle Road to Central Ave., it presently functions as a city road without the maintenance and protections of a city street—such as cross walks and speed enforcement. For example, the stop signs on the corners of Thornwood and Julia Dr. often are regarded by drivers as mere suggestions. Add to this mix the quality of plowing Thornwood Lane experienced in 2017 to 2018, and you have an accident in the making as *snowfall necessitates walking on the street itself. To avoid this situation, after the approval of the road, the city should plow the adjacent sidewalk from Middle Road to Pointe Place.* I believe that the city does sidewalk clearance for school children and should also for the 55+ communities.

In any case, please expedite the acceptance of Thornwood Lane before winter descends upon us in earnest. It is the right thing to do. Our residents waited patiently for both sides to come together and bring the approval process to an end. Please finish the job.