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TOWN OF SUTTON PLANNING BOARD & DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

To: Planning Board

From: Jennifer Hager,
Planning & Economic Development Director

Date: December 15, 2021

Re: Evaluation of Burbank & Sibley Road Intersections

As you have directed, Central Massachusetts Regional Planning (CMRPC) has completed traffic counts at various locations around Sutton. These locations are ones that the Department and Board considered might be impacted by traffic increases and/or that were already experiencing some level of difficulties. I am attaching these counts including those for Burbank and Sibley Roads.

Over the last several years there have been multiple incidents involving property damage and the potential for personal injury at this intersection. The Police Chief has repeatedly stressed that something needs to be done. I worked with our Highway Superintendent to install signage at either end of the roadways warning of the severely constricted intersection, but issues persist.

At this point I would recommend the Planning Board request the Select Board provide funding to hire an impartial traffic engineering firm to take the counts provided by CMRPC and gather whatever additional information they need to present a variety of alternatives to mitigate these traffic safety issues. Once alternatives are developed, all parties of interest, including residents of Burbank and Sibley Roads, should be directly invited to a public meeting to have input into the process of evaluating and selecting the most appropriate mitigation.

As the owner of the Freegrace Marble Farm, that encompasses all sides of this intersection, Mr. James Marran has requested that I provide you with a package of information about the history and significance of the property as both a National Historic District and A Society for the Preservation of Antiquities site. He feels strongly all parties involved should be aware of this information and that it should be considered when selecting an alternative to mitigate traffic safety concerns. This package was emailed to you last week and a copy is attached hereto.