



Ruthanne Fuller  
Mayor

City of Newton, Massachusetts  
Office of the Mayor

142-22

Telephone  
(617) 796-1100  
Fax  
(617) 796-1113  
TDD/TTY  
(617) 796-1089

Email  
rfuller@newtonma.gov

January 20, 2022

Honorable City Council  
Newton City Hall  
1000 Commonwealth Avenue  
Newton, MA 02459

Honorable City Councilors:

I respectfully submit this docket item to this Honorable Council requesting an amendment to Chapter 26, Section 47 (see below ordinance language) to allow the option to use granite dive stones at existing driveways.

The current language in Chapter 26, Section 47 requires that corner blocks or curved curbing be used at all existing driveways unless exempted on any given street by the City Council. Installation of dive stones allow curbing to be installed without the need to modify existing concrete driveway aprons. In addition, dive stones can be driven over without damage to vehicles and have the added benefit of making snow removal safer for plow drivers.

Granite dive stones were specified (in lieu of corner blocks) for the recent rehabilitation of Walnut Street, from Homer Street to Forest Street. This was approved by City Council through the Public Facilities Committee.

The revised Sec. 26-47 below adds "dive stones" as an option.

Original Sec. 26-47. Specifications. The final construction of all streets or ways constructed completely by the owners, or constructed by the city under the law relating to the assessment of betterments, shall conform to the following specifications, which specifications shall constitute minimum requirements for the layout, construction and acceptance of streets or ways in the city: ... "Unless this requirement is specifically exempted on any given street by the city council, curbing of cut granite shall be laid throughout the entire length of the street including rounded street corners with corner blocks or curved curbing at all existing driveways. Such curbing shall be six-inch (6") width and eighteen-inch (18") depth with sawn top and shall be in lengths of six (6) feet or over."

Revised Sec. 26-47. Specifications. The final construction of all streets or ways constructed completely by the owners, or constructed by the city under the law relating to the assessment of betterments, shall conform to the following specifications, which specifications shall constitute minimum requirements for the layout, construction and acceptance of streets or ways in the city: ... "Unless this requirement is specifically exempted on any given street by the city council, curbing of cut granite shall be laid

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throughout the entire length of the street including rounded street corners with corner blocks, dive stones or curved curbing at all existing driveways. Such curbing shall be six-inch (6") width and eighteen-inch (18") depth with sawn top and shall be in lengths of six (6) feet or over."

Please see the attached memo from Public Works Commissioner James McGonagle.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ruthanne Fuller". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mayor Ruthanne Fuller

City of Newton

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

1000 Commonwealth Avenue  
Newton Centre, MA 02459-1449Ruthanne Fuller  
Mayor

Date: January 4, 2022

To: Jonathan Yeo, Chief Operating Officer  
Maureen Lemieux, Chief Financial Officer

From: James McGonagle, Commissioner

Subject: Request for Docket Item  
Revisions to City Ordinance 26-47, Specifications  
Driveway Corner Blocks vs. Dive Stones

I respectfully request amendments to Chapter 26, Section 47 (see below ordinance language) by amending the language requiring that corner blocks or curved curbing be used at all existing driveways unless exempted on any given street by the City Council to include the option to use dive stones as well.

Granite dive stones were specified (in lieu of corner blocks) for the rehabilitation of Walnut Street, from Homer Street to Forest Street. This was approved by City Council through the Public Facilities Committee. Installation of dive stones allow curbing to be installed without the need to modify existing concrete driveway aprons. In addition, dive stones can be driven over without damage to vehicles and have the added benefit of making snow removal safer for plow drivers.

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Sincerely,

James McGonagle  
Commissioner Public Works