

From: [Pamela Harrison](#)
To: [Nancy Kramer](#)
Subject: Pete Webster
Date: Wednesday, September 14, 2011 9:23:03 AM

Pamela Harrison McCullough
102 Church Street, Norwich, VT 05055
14 September 2011

Ed Childs, Chair
Norwich Select Board

Dear Mr. Childs,

I am unable to attend tonight's Select Board Meeting. As part of the Church Street Neighborhood in the town fire district, I want to give some positive testimony on behalf of Town Manager Pete Webster.

As you may know, our neighborhood worked very hard with Select person Keenie Richardson some years ago to appeal the to State Highway Department to lower the speed limit coming into town on Rte 5 to 25 miles per hour. This lower limit was in place until a recent repaving when a new highway dept rep, in response to our town's request to extend the 25 mph limit north to the interstate underpass, unilaterally revoked the earlier agreed-upon limit and actually *raised* the speed limit up to 35 mph.

Pete Webster and Margaret Cheney worked very hard with us, the paving crews, and in testimony with the highway department to rectify this change and return the speed limit to the desired 25 mph for our children and the many pedestrians, bikers and runners who use that curvy and sight-limited section of the road. During these many deliberations, walk-throughs with paving crews, and testimonies with state regulators, Pete Richardson was an instrumental presence in coordinating our town's best interests for our neighborhood's well-being. He was well-informed, unfailingly tactful, patient, and persevering. We are very satisfied with his responsiveness, thoroughness, and commitment to us, and we feel very fortunate to have a manager of his abilities.

In the meeting last night, it was apparent that the difficulties in coordination between the Select Board and the Manager might best be ameliorated by a year-long course of mediation. (This is one instance in which such an expenditure of town funds would benefit us all.) Our town citizens have unequivocally voted for a manager at least twice. Please consider studying how Hanover has so successfully coordinated the energies of its Manager and Select Board over the many more years that they have been using a manager. It was suggested in last night's meeting that new members of the Select Board read the long analysis written so carefully some years ago about how best to coordinate the two governmental arms. Informed mediation seems in order to put an end to needless micromanaging that serves no one well.

Thank you for your hard work on the town's behalf and for your consideration of our input.

Sincerely,
Pamela Harrison McCullough

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