

Parking banned on Sunset Rock

By **Melissa Russell**/ Correspondent

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With the Yankees racking up runs on a television in the background, the Selectmen voted Tuesday night to ban parking on both sides of Sunset Rock Lane during the remainder of the school year.

Parking will be restricted from the north side of the bridge and around the bus circle from 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., in order to allow access for emergency vehicles during the hours that the Wood End Elementary School and its fields are in use, the board decided.

In a continuation of a public hearing begun at the end of last month, a small group of residents explained how through traffic and chaotic parking is impacting Sunset Rock Lane and surrounding streets. Parents of students complained that at 37 spaces, the school parking lot is too small to accommodate staff, much less parents dropping off a forgotten lunch or picking up a sick child during the course of the school day.

The board will appoint a task force to consider permanent restrictions and traffic flow once the town's schools are redistricted and Barrows students return to their home school from the Wood End Elementary School, where they are spending the year while their school undergoes renovation.

Selectmen Chairman Richard Schubert said, "It is worth it to look at the whole neighborhood and understand where people come from, so everyone feels a little bit [of impact], and no one feels everything."

The study group will also consider how to add to existing staff parking.

Selectman Camille Anthony, upon hearing that some staff were forced to park offsite, stated "It doesn't make sense to build a school and not have enough parking for the employees. It blows my mind."

The Selectmen also reviewed the Town Meeting warrant, voting to approve the majority of the warrant articles, and postponing four on procedural grounds.

On Nov. 8, Town Meeting members will meet, for the first night only, at the soon-to-be-opened IMAX Theater at Jordan's Furniture. On the warrant: declaring West Street a historic district, authorizing the Conservation Commission to grant easements on Longwood Road for utility access, and using proceeds from developers to establish a revolving fund. Also to be considered: whether to borrow funds from the Massachusetts Water Resource Authority for the reconstruction of surface drains, sewers, and sewerage systems, and whether to grant the town authorization to raise funds for replacement of water mains on West and Franklin streets.

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