



10/17

28

1303  
consent

**TOWN OF ACTON**  
472 Main Street  
Acton, Massachusetts, 01720  
Telephone (978) 264-9628  
Fax (978) 264-9630

**Bruce M. Stamski, P.E.**  
**Town Engineer/Director of Public Works**

October 7, 2005

Board of Selectmen  
Town of Acton  
472 Main Street  
Acton, MA 01720

Re: Recommendation for Advisory Traffic Sign  
Pope Road near Brabrook Road

Dear Board Members:

The Acton Planning Board on September 27, 2005 voted to support and urges the relocation of the 30mph speed limit sign from its present location south of Brabrook Road to a point 200 feet+/- North of Brabrook Road. The objective is to slow traffic at the intersection of Brabrook and Pope. I concur with this recommendation but have the following problem. The change in location of this sign would require modification of the Acton Traffic Rules and Orders **and** approval of the speed zone change by Mass Highway. The speed zone change will require a traffic study to Mass Highway standards for speed zoning. This could take several months.

At this time I recommend we take the following action for the following reasons.

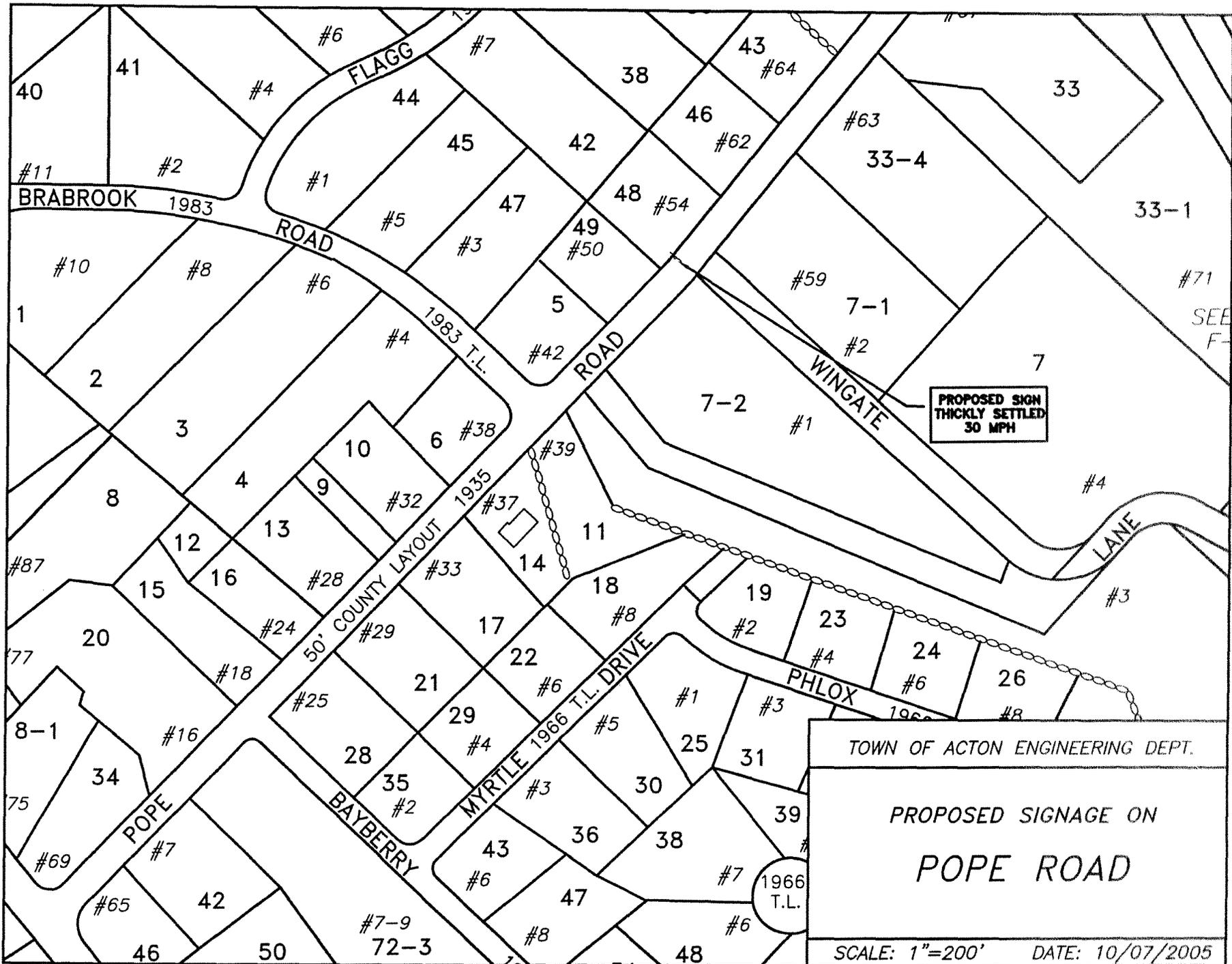
The "prima facie" speed limit for thickly settled areas is 30 mph. A thickly settled area is where houses are less than 200 feet apart. This office has determined that Pope Road is thickly settled to a point 350 feet north of Brabrook Road (in the vicinity of Wingate Drive). Massachusetts Speed Law does not allow prima facie speed limits to be posted. Drivers are supposed to recognize this situation and drive accordingly. It is my engineering judgment that a prudent and reasonable driver can not determine that Pope Road is thickly settled at this location. I recommend an Advisory Sign "Thickly Settled" with a 30mph speed plate be installed in the vicinity of Wingate Drive warning drivers of this change in road status. Advisory signs are yellow in color and do not carry the same enforcement level as a white speed limit sign. They do not need State approval and are not adopted in the Traffic Rules and Orders.

I will initiate contact with Mass Highway to determine the extent of a study needed to modify the speed zone in this area. Hopefully the work will be minor and we can change the advisory speed sign to an actual speed zone.

Sincerely,

Bruce M. Stamski, P.E.

Cc  
Police Dept.  
Planning Dept.



PROPOSED SIGN  
THICKLY SETTLED  
30 MPH

TOWN OF ACTON ENGINEERING DEPT.

PROPOSED SIGNAGE ON  
**POPE ROAD**

SCALE: 1"=200'      DATE: 10/07/2005

1966  
T.L.