

418 Arlington Street  
West Acton, Massachusetts  
August 7, 1961

Town Engineer  
Fire Station  
Acton Center, Massachusetts

Dear Sir:

I recently asked W. Gravlin to advise me on what could be done to prevent my garage and hard-top area from flooding in the winter. His opinion was that there were two causes, a partial cure for one of which was to construct a dry well for removal of water accumulating on the hard-top. The second and major cause was, in his opinion, that the drainage system for the whole Arlington Street extension was inadequate--this is self-evident if only because in February the water depth rose to over 12" at the bottom of my lot and to about 5" in the garage.

Since this water neither originates on my lot nor is supposed to be drained away on same, I have difficulty in appreciating why this is not a matter for your attention.

Perhaps you would be good enough to explain why you regard the present situation as satisfactory.

Very truly yours,

*Guy Fougere*

Guy Fougere

/mdf

cc: W. Gravlin  
Central Street  
West Acton, Massachusetts

August 11, 1961

Mr. Guy Fougere  
418 Arlington Street  
West Acton, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Fougere:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated August 7, 1961. From its tone, I seem to gain the impression that you are laboring on certain misconceptions and I, therefore, would like to point out to you the facts pertaining to the matter raised in your letter.

1. Arlington Street in front of your house is not an accepted town road, but rather a private way, so all your complaints should be directed to the subdivider who owns the road.
2. The Town of Acton has a "Typical Driveway Approach Section" drawn in 1956 and revised in August 1958, which shows the mandatory requirements for private driveways when meeting the edge of a travelled way in a public road and which calls for a diverted gutter and crown to prevent any surface water from town roads to enter into private land (and vice versa). Apparently your driveway was not built in accordance with this plan.
3. I do not recall ever having stated that I regard the present situation as satisfactory, but I can assure you that the situation is beyond the town's responsibility and should, therefore, be straightened out between individual property owners.
4. From my observation, the whole lower-laying area is located in the natural water course of a downhill watershed. Its strata is partially impervious and/or ledgy and the only effective drain is a dry well built by the subdivider on private land. Since your problem seems to be a re-occurring one, I suggest that you contact Mr. Sweeney to have him grant you permission to use his dry well for whatever plans you might have with regard to solving your drain problem.

5. Mr. A. Gravlin strongly objected to me this morning for having been drawn into this matter by you and he told me that in no way, shape or manner, did he ever intimate to you that in his opinion the drainage system for the whole Arlington Street Extension was inadequate.

I am sorry that my reply does not help very much in alleviating your drain problem, but I feel that this problem is entirely one between two private parties and therefore should be straightened out between them.

Very truly yours,

Fred K. Hanack  
Town Engineer

FKH:VM

cc. A. Gravlin