

THE BEDFORD CITIZEN

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

JUNE 14, 2016

I've lived in Bedford since 1963. While I now spend 7 months of the year in Florida, I still consider Bedford as my hometown.

No one can argue that there haven't been many changes to Bedford in that time, and that we have several traffic problems (among many other things). To me, Hemlock Lane is one of the worst, and is going to get a lot worse once (and if) the Grove Street development gets underway in Lexington. It is clogged with traffic at times during the day, and is somewhat of a speed way at other times. There have also been unsubstantiated reports of cars passing on the road. While certainly not the worst problem (hello, Great Road), it seems to me that the problem on Hemlock could be easily rectified at minimal cost.

We can't have an officer on the road all the time, so basically one of three things has to happen (obviously the Hemlock residents have to agree to change). The road could be made "one way" but that would only cut the traffic half the time and would do nothing for speeding. In fact, it would turn Hemlock into a two lane road and encourage speeding and passing. If one's goal is to cut the traffic on Hemlock, then use the Burlington method and close off one end of the road. That would definitely cut traffic and slow down speeds on the road, but unfortunately that would spill that traffic onto roads already overloaded.

If one's goal is to slow the traffic down, one way would be to place speed "humps" (not bumps which are considerably narrower) on the road. Belmont has used this on a number of its streets. This will slow down the traffic, and might help with congestion. There should be at least three "humps": One about 200 feet from each entrance and at least one located half way on Hemlock. While I personally like this last method, I obviously have no say in the solution.

This problem needs to be addressed.

Robert Ciampa