

TOWN OF ACTON
SIDEWALK COMMITTEE Meeting
MINUTES OF August 21, 2007 MEETING
7:30 p.m.
RJ Grey Library

Next Committee Meeting: Wed, September 26nd 7:30 - 9:30 (*Note different Location*)
Memorial Library, Meeting Room (Downstairs)

Present: Paulina Knibbe (Chair), Dick Calandrella, Systke Campbell, Pam Cochrane, Kate Chung, Celia Kent, Corrina Roman-Kreuze

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

Citizen's Concerns: Two residents from High Street were present to discuss their sidewalk petition and safety issues. This petition and previously submitted information will now sit with the Sidewalk Committee. A representative from 29 Prospect Street attended to express concern over safety, lack of sidewalk of Prospect Street. She noted that there is money set aside by Tupelo Road developer, good neighbor support except for one neighbor who may lose trees to sidewalk.

Introductions: Bettina Abe and Celia Kent who were not present at first meeting introduced themselves. :

There was discussion about length of term for members. The two Associate Members, Pam and Kate have one year terms, Bettina and Celia offered to take one year terms, Leslie and Paulina have two year terms, Dick, Systke and Corrina have three year terms.

Construction Updates:

Charter Road is in progress.

Main Street Sidewalk update (Post Office Square to Route 2A) – discussions needed with Water District, Selectman Magee is meeting with the water district to discuss if sidewalk can meander through water district land.. This may require Water District Town Meeting. This sidewalk cannot be accomplished this calendar year, but hope to get it done this fiscal year. Update on grade crossing on Central – Selectman Hunter to follow up in September with MBTA. Sidewalk by Meyer Hill – same developer who is doing Quail Ridge. There is a bond for this construction, preference is to have developer finish this, if not Town can exercise the bond.

Chief Widmayer was present to discuss how safety issues impacted sidewalk priorities in the past. Previously, priority was focused around schools. 2004 first safety plan, buildability, neighbor willingness, comprehensive plan. Main Street Chief's top priority, no shoulder, high speed, 2A has shoulders, traffic speed counts done on Main Street . Chief can do studies on Streets, Engineering Dept may be able to do a better study. Some data could be gleaned from existing accident reports. Town Engineer may have data available from traffic volume studies. Any data from State of Town agenda?

Brainstorming/Discussion from Committee members about criteria:

Email from Dick and email from Leslie outlining included in handouts.

Safety, connection to existing sidewalks, linkage to schools, parks, playgrounds, shops etc. Environmental/historic consideration – reference to Main Street, new construction – developers should be required to build or put bonds in where sidewalks are needed. Cost effective/time effective in addition to existing funds? Private grants? Neighborhood support extremely important

Can we get a list of streets in town where there is not a right of way for sidewalks?

Should there be a separate category for numbered routes? Should rise to top of list connecting aspects (schools, shopping, transportation)

Density of areas

How sidewalks can affect the feel of environment of road

Aiding people w/o access to cars/transport, geography of road (visibility, narrowness, winding) Children/elderly population numbers from Town Clerk Town Census

Distance from schools

Distance from points of interest

Looked at Sidewalk Prioritization Rating Sheet from Bruce Stamski – how to use this in measuring needs?

Paulina suggested that we decide where sidewalks should be built first, Safety and Connectivity. As a second step, viability filter. We will assign numbers at next meeting. Systke will flesh out areas of safety and connectivity and B. Stamski's preliminary rating sheet

Systke, will take Bruce's priority list and work in our criteria to come up with a list.

Partition of Town into 8 regions:

- 1. 1 = Dick, Willow / Central & West. (Bordered by Stow / Boxborough town line). South of Mass Ave.*
- 2. 2=Pam, North of Mass Ave to Rt 2. (bounded by Route 111 & Route 2 and Boxborough)(includes Deacon Hunt neighborhood and Indian Village Neighborhood)*
- 3. 3=Celia, Train Station area. (South / East of Willow / Central to Main Street. (Includes Prospect, Maple, Stow)*

4. 4 = Systke, *East of Main to Concord, Maynard Line. (includes High Street, Lawsbrook Road and School Street extension*
5. 5 = Corrina, *Town Center East. North of Route 2, West of Main. Includes Newtown Road, Nagog Road.*
6. , 6=Bettina, *Town Center West. North of Route 2. Concord Road, Taylor, Conant School, Arboretum to Route 2A.*
7. 7= Leslie (by default) *East Acton. Bounded by Route 2A, Main Street, Concord / Carlisle town line*
8. , 8=Kate, *North Acton. Bounded by Main Street. North on 2A - including Acorn Park.*

Discussed sidewalks of Quail Ridge Kate to draft letter.

Concerned about access to Route 2A (seniors who can't don't drive – access to CVS etc.)

Need set back from road

Do not have a sense of how sidewalks work in this community need more information.

In future, hope is that a point person for the site plans

Meeting was adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Corrina Roman-Kreuze