

**TOWN OF ACTON
SIDEWALK COMMITTEE Meeting
MINUTES OF October 24, 2007 MEETING**

7:30 p.m.

Room 204, Town Hall

Next Committee Meeting: Wed, November 14th 7:30 - 9:30 Memorial Library, Meeting Room (Downstairs)

Present: Paulina Knibbe (Chair), Leslie Hogan (Co-Chair) Dick Calendrella, Sytske Campbell Pam Cochrane, Bettina Abe, Kate Chung, Celia Kent, Corrina Roman-Kreuze, Citizen from Prospect Street, Citizen from High Street, Terra Friedrichs, Brian Bendig, (Historic District Commission)

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

Citizen's Concerns: Citizen Carol Dennington was present to express concern over lack of sidewalk on lower Prospect Street.

Construction Updates:

Main Street Sidewalk update (Post Office Square to Route 2A) – P. Knibbe presented sidewalk plans that were presented at 22 October 2007 Board of Selectmen meeting Selectman Magee worked on this particular plan. In some areas, sidewalk was moved back from the road providing a better buffer – improving pedestrian safety - and allowing some trees to be saved. Tree work will be done in December. Sidewalk construction to begin in Spring 2008. Still need to wait for Water District approval which requires vote at their annual meeting. Concern was expressed over sidewalk crossing Isaac Davic trail and general notification of Acton residents (Brian Bendig HDC) P. Knibbe noted that the intent/charge of the Sidewalk Committee is to improve this process, but that the Main Street Sidewalk proposal predated the formation of the Sidewalk Committee.

Update on Central Street Sidewalk at rail crossing near Idylwilde Farm. Corrina Roman-Kreuze reported that Selectman Hunter has been working with MBTA on negotiation of improving walking surface at this crossing. Currently, the MBTA is prepared to fund a significant portion of the cost – leaving approximately \$11,000.00 for the Town of Acton to cover for paving and Police Detail.

Update on Quail Ridge: Kate Chung reported that a second mock up was presented, this representation included a 3 foot buffer and extends sidewalk on Skyline Drive to Route 2A.

Leslie Hogan reported on Triangle Farm: \$12,000.00 bond left from this development will flow to general fund for sidewalk construction

Action Item: → *Paulina Knibbe*– Do speed trackers used in traffic study just measure car speed? Does it count cars?

Action Item: →*ALL* Any observations regarding recommendations that fall outside of Sidewalk Committee – include in report. For example, Celia Kent describe the nature of the entrance from Central Street to Prospect Street – the current situation feels like an off/on ramp. Would squaring off this entrance serve to change speed of traffic entering street?

Action Item: → Kate Chung to determine what population numbers represent low, medium and high for Prioritization Chart.

Discussion on Rating Chart:

There will need to be room for general observations at end of chart, include comments in report type format.

Some observations from Bettina Abe” She needed to designate streets with a Side A/Side B delineation.

Is street wide enough for a sidewalk? There was discussion regarding “Walking Room” Use judgement, are you able to get off road to safety? Or, is there no place to go to?

Systke Campbell noted under Safety there should be an area to denote if there is a Railroad crossing. It was decided to put under Section E, with a possible 10 points, add notation/description of said crossing.

Bettina Abe presented her findings using prioritization chart for “Region 6”. In general, she felt point system worked well for streets in her section.

Dick Calendrella presented his findings prioritization chart for “Region 1”. In general, he felt point system worked well for streets in his section. He expressed concern on how one person’s numbers would compare to another member’s numbers in a different section of town.

Action Item: →*D. Calendrella and Bettina Abe* will use revised chart to go through their streets again. They will each take one street from the other’s neighborhoods and see if both come up with the same score to verify that they are on the same page with respect to rating sidewalk needs. They will present at next meeting.

Action Item: →*ALL* Two numbers will be assigned. Safety and Viability scores will be reported separately.

Action Item: → Kate Chung and Leslie Hogan will report on their neighborhoods next time.

Action Item: →*ALL* We wish to be able to begin work/study in earnest on neighborhoods in January, 2008. So, Prioritization Chart should be finalized before then.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Corrina Roman-Kreuzer

