

**From:** Steve Evans [steven.evans777@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 21, 2014 2:53 PM  
**To:** Planning Board  
**Subject:** Hayward Farms subdivision plans

Dear Acton Planning board,

This input to you is about the Hayward Farms subdivision plans for 121 Hayward Road Acton, specifically regarding the proposed sidewalk from the Hayward Road crosswalk at Joseph Reed Lane, along the east side of Joseph Reed Lane, to Captain Brown's Lane.

I am both a resident of the Minuteman Ridge neighborhood including both Joseph Reed Lane and Captain Brown's Lane, and the clerk (and a member) of the Acton Sidewalk Committee (My input here is different from that of the Sidewalk Committee; I was unable to attend the November 12 meeting where their input was written, and I am writing as a citizen, not representing the Sidewalk Committee).

I think that the 325 foot sidewalk as proposed by the developer makes sense, and is desirable. It adds some safety for pedestrians at this busy intersection. Alternatively, the Planning Board should ask the developer to make a donation to the sidewalk fund.

What would NOT be desirable would be the Acton Sidewalk Committee's request to build a "complete sidewalk on Joseph Reed [Lane], from Hayward Road to Knowlton Drive." Quoting the request:

"The builder has proposed to build a partial sidewalk on Joseph Reed Road as part of this subdivision. ...

"A partial sidewalk is a safety concern. Therefore we request a complete sidewalk on Joseph Reed Rd., from Hayward Road to Knowlton Drive, be built.

Alternatively, we request a donation to the sidewalk fund, using the established formula. "

The Sidewalk Committee is generally a proponent of building an interconnected web of sidewalks, especially along main and collector roads. In this case they apparently applied that policy without considering the impact or need for such a sidewalk in an established and mature neighborhood subdivision. The length of Joseph Reed Lane has clear lines of sight, established lawns and plantings, is safe to walk along, and the residents have never requested such a sidewalk. I don't see any 'safety concern' whatsoever with the proposed 'partial sidewalk' - I think it is a safety improvement to the current situation *at the intersection*. The Sidewalk Committee has done no evaluation or rating of Joseph Reed Lane for safety concerns or sidewalk need. I predict neighborhood objection to any plans to build a sidewalk along the length of Joseph Reed Lane.

I urge the Planning board to listen to input from the residents of Joseph Reed Lane and the Minuteman Ridge neighborhood. I think that the the 325 foot sidewalk from Hayward Road to Captain Brown's Lane as proposed by the developer makes sense, and is desirable. If there is no support for this, then a donation to the sidewalk fund by the developer is the next best choice.

thank you,

Steve Evans  
12 Deacon Hunt Drive  
Acton MA USA