

## **General Information On the Construction of Sidewalks**

A typical sidewalk constructed in Acton without a grass strip requires a total area that is six feet wide. This allows for a five feet wide paved sidewalk with a one-foot wide cape cod style berm adjacent to the road. However, abutters should be aware that some grading will be necessary beyond the six feet to blend the existing grades to the sidewalk. It is our policy to work with the individual abutters to resolve any design or landscaping issues to their reasonable satisfaction.

On older streets in Town, sidewalks are not as easy to build. Stone walls, steep shoulder grades, public shade trees, narrow culverts and the lack of sufficient street right-of-way widths are common obstacles to building sidewalks on colonial era roads. It also becomes more difficult when other residents object to the sidewalk, particularly if their cooperation is needed for an additional right-of-way or easement.

The Town's Engineering and Assessor's Departments can provide the contact person with a plan of the street that shows the street addresses and the map and parcel numbers for the abutting lots and a list of the abutter's name and mailing addresses. The Engineering Department could also conduct a preliminary meeting with the contact person(s) to walk the road and determine which side would be better suited for a sidewalk.

The petitioner could also rank the sidewalk based on a Sidewalk Prioritization Plan that was created by the Traffic Advisory Committee (TAC). The Sidewalk Prioritization Plan is a uniform method to rank proposed sidewalk projects in Acton consistent with the objectives of the Town's Master Plan. A copy of the Sidewalk Prioritization Plan is enclosed with the petition.