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To: [Margaret Busse](#)
Cc: [Kristin Alexander](#); jim.snyder.grant@gmail.com
Subject: Comments on sidewalks
Date: Friday, February 04, 2011 10:17:19 PM
Attachments: [Sidewalk Discussion.docx](#)

My remarks concerning sidewalks are pasted below. However, the visual impact is much better in the attached Word document.

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Sidewalks

I would like to make four points with respect to sidewalks:

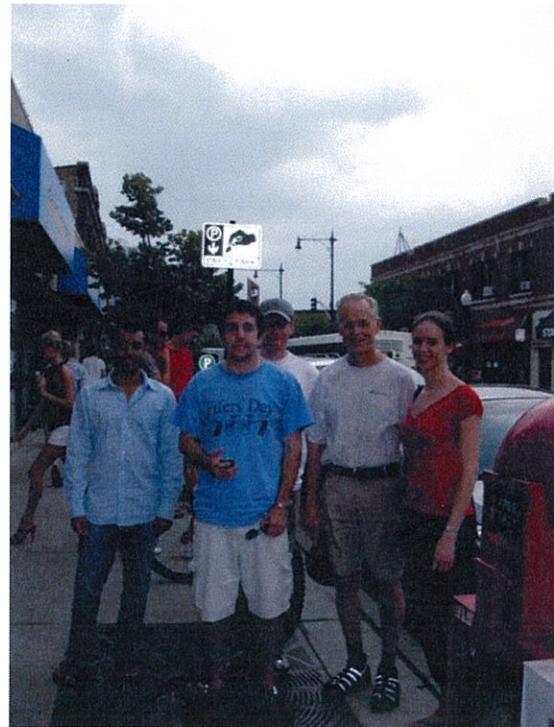
- Acton prides itself on its **RURAL NATURE**.
- Phase I of the CCP clearly shows that people are **UNWILLING TO PAY** for them.
- It is fundamentally **UNFAIR** to make your neighbors pay for your poor judgment.
- The sidewalks we have just built are practically **UNUSED**.

RURAL NATURE Information gathered as part of Phase I of the Comprehensive Community Plan indicates that part of the attraction of Acton is its rural nature. Please note the pictures below:

Rural Area—Does Not Have Sidewalks



Urban Area—Has Sidewalks



If you wanted sidewalks, you should have moved to Brookline or Cambridge.

UNWILLING TO PAY Phase I of the Comprehensive Community Plan, for which we have paid approximately \$250,000 to date, contains two data points from survey work done in the first half of 2008 (when the unemployment rate was about 40% lower) that are quite relevant. The first data point, in answer to a question in a telephone survey, is that only 40.4% of respondents were willing to pay anything for sidewalks. The second data point is that the 95% confidence interval for this survey was

5.1%. Accordingly, with better than 99.9% probability, less than half the Town wants to pay for sidewalks.

UNFAIR Sidewalks are a painfully obvious feature of both a neighborhood and an individual parcel of real estate. It is terribly unfair to purchase a house that is ill-suited to your needs and then beggar your neighbors to bail you out of a bad decision.

UNUSED As I drive on High Street and Main Street, I have notice exceedingly few pedestrians on the sidewalks we have already built on these streets, at an estimated cost of \$2.2 million when completed. In fact, I have seen people walking in High Street when they were three feet away from a clear sidewalk.

Brandy Brandon