

Tewksbury Sidewalk Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: January 7th, 2003

Meeting Place: Tewksbury Police Station

Attendee's: Ted Dooling, Franco Lucchesi, Sandra Campo, Laura Caplan,
Matt Dailey and Elaine Quinlan.

Meeting Commenced at 7:35 pm.

Members welcomed our newest member, Elaine Quinlan. Franco advised that Phyllis White and Carolyn French have resigned as members. He also advised that Eric Braciska has also become a member.

Franco confirmed with Ted that the bank account for the Sidewalks for a Safer Tewksbury Ballot Committee had been closed.

Committee members agreed to wait another month to vote on a new vice chairperson, as not all members were present at this meeting.

Members voted and unanimously accepted meeting minutes for November 12.

Ted discussed with members the results of a comparison study of surrounding Merrimac Valley communities sidewalk funding and construction projects.

Franco inquired about surrounding towns engineering procedures. Ted stated that some of the towns utilize "in house" engineering, which keeps the cost down.

Franco stated that he spoke with Selectmen Caldwell. He advised that Mr. Caldwell stated that the financial outlook for the town is not positive for the next few years. Franco addressed the issue of having some sidewalks installed as they complete the sewerage plan. Franco advised that Mr. Caldwell is planning to attend our next meeting on Jan. 14th.

Sandra discussed the idea of trying to get onto the agenda for an upcoming Selectmen's meeting. Elaine and Ted thought it would be a good idea to have some specific ideas to present to them. Franco suggested we meet with Mr. Caldwell and Mr. Micelli first to see how that meeting goes. He suggested we present the information we have to Mr. Caldwell and ask him to forward our information on to the other Selectmen.

Ted raised the idea of developing a warrant stating that a percentage of town budget and chapter 90 funds be used for sidewalks.

Ted calculated that if we asked for 70K from the town budget it would be 1/10 of 1% of the town budget. Franco, Matt and Laura suggested it would be safer to seek funds through chapter 90 funds. Ted suggested we could seek a combination of both.

Franco reminded members that a vote would be necessary to decide on the 34K that is remaining for design and or construction for Shawsheen St. After some discussion, Ted made a motion to use money for the rest of the design for Shawsheen St. Members voted Unanimously in favor of using the remainder of the funds to design Shawsheen St.

Laura left at 8:45.

Ted suggested we put together some options to discuss with Mr. Caldwell.

1. We use a percentage of the town budget along with chapter 90 funds.
2. We draft articles in the Town Warrant to go street by street.
3. We seek a greater percentage of chapter 90 funds.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.