

**Town of Tewksbury
Sidewalk Committee
Meeting Minutes**

Meeting Date/Time Monday, September 29, 2003 at 7:30 PM

Meeting Place Tewksbury Town Library Trustees Room

Attendees Franco Lucchesi, Ted Dooling, Elaine Quinlan
Sam Krikorian and Eric Braciska

Meeting commenced at 7:35 PM.

Objective/Options to discuss at 10/9/03 Town Manager/Selectman Meeting

Franco asked those in attendance what we wanted to ask for in the meeting with Bill Burris, Steve Sedgwick, Charlie Coldwell, and Dave Cressman. Franco stated that he thought the purpose to meet was to establish a permanent funding source for new sidewalks.

Franco stated that he received an E-Mail from Sidewalk Committee member Sandra Campo stating a good point. Sandra asks why are sidewalks not included in the Town Managers Capital Improvement Plan? Franco asks how does the renovation of the senior center fall in front of building of sidewalks in town?

Ted stated that this question has been posed to Dave Cressman in past meetings. The response from Dave Cressman has always been; Where are we going to take the money from?

Elaine asked since Brother Pizza has been demolished on Livingston Street why was there now another new strip that needed a sidewalk?

Franco stated that the Sidewalk Committee does need to adjust the order of streets due to the inclusion of sidewalks into the Master Plan. Franco stated again that he would like to focus on establishing a permanent line item in the budget first.

Ted stated that he would like to utilize the leverage we have of the possibility of bringing more articles to town meeting.

Sam stated that he did some research on how much the town spent over a six-year period to put in sidewalks. Sam estimates the town spent about 100 K for sidewalks in town which includes funds given to the town by developers. Sam suggested how about making the 5-year plan a 30 yr plan?

Franco said he believes, Dave Cressman and Bill Burris actually think they are doing a lot as far as putting in sidewalks in town. Franco also stated he would like to get away from submitting articles every year at the Town Meeting.

Ted stated that he thinks we should put another article together again for the May town meeting. Ted stated he thought our options were as follows;

- 1) A \$250,000 line item per year in the budget.
- 2) Stick with the original five year Sidewalk Committee plan as apposed to piece mealing or patching together sidewalk loops. Ted stated if we have enough funds in the sidewalk account then lets construct a portion of a streets sidewalks. Ted also stated that we must change the five-year plan to coincide with the sewer plan.

Sam stated that he is not in favor of the sidewalk patching. Lets follow the five year plan stated Sam.

- 3) Ted said our third option was to combine the sidewalks in with the sewer plan. Lets submit an article at town meeting if need be. Eric asked do we have leverage?

Franco stated the problem is this town has been frugal when it comes to the construction of buildings in town since the 1950's. The question arose do we force this issue at the meeting on October 9th? Franco stated Dave Cressman has showed him a listing of nearby towns and the tax funds they receive from local businesses. Tewksbury is last on the list. Cressman has stated to Franco in the past that he doesn't know where the money is going to come from

Ted stated that we have to be assertive in the meeting.

Elaine stated that the Five Year Sidewalk plan is now in the Master Plan.

Sam stated that a Fourth Option is to take the approach of submitting an article at the May Town Meeting. Sam would also like the town to put a percentage or fixed dollar amount of Chapter 90 Funds toward sidewalk construction on an annual basis. All members of the committee agreed to Sams' approach.

Franco stated the fifth option was to get funds from all the alternative areas which had been discussed in the past.

Elaine motioned to adjourn the meeting. Sam seconded the motion. Franco announced the meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.