

**Town of Tewksbury
Sidewalk Committee
Meeting Minutes**

Meeting Date/Time Monday, October 20, 2003 at 7:30 PM

Meeting Place Police Station Community Room

Attendees Mike Mucci, Franco Lucchesi, Sam Krikorian, Eric Braciska, Elaine Quinlan, Laura Caplan, & Selectman Jerry Sellison

Meeting commenced at 7:35 PM. The meeting minutes from Monday, August 11th and September 29th were reviewed, amended, and accepted at 8:50 PM.

Review of Meeting with Town-Dave Cressman/Bill Burris/Charlie Coldwell - Franco mentioned that Dave Cressman said the town would not have ample funds to increase the line item in the budget for the construction of sidewalks. 2005 would be the most difficult year financially for the town. Do not have additional funds on top of the \$25,000 the town gives.

1) Five-year plan and missing pieces - (Two separate issues) Keep funding totally separate. IE: Stoneburry Crossing, Livingston St. (The missing links) comes out of one budget and The Five-Year plan comes out of a separate budget. Cressman was not apposed to having two separate means of funding which could be kept separate.

2) Chapter 90 Funds - Asked for a percentage of Chapter 90 Funds or a minimum amount from Chapter 90. Water drainage mains at the intersection of Chandler and East Streets needs to be done first.

Franco mentioned that he did not want to come back to the town begging for Funds from Town Meeting year after year. The funding for Chapter 90 Funds changes from year to year. In 2003 The Town of Tewksbury was allocated \$457,000. Franco asked for 25 % of Chapter 90 Funds or a minimum of \$100,000 per year.

Laura mentioned she had a conversation with Dave Cressman at a recent Town Meeting. Dave Cressman assured Laura that once the bridgework over the Shawsheen River for emergency vehicles in the South St. area was completed then more funds would come to Sidewalk Committee.

Franco- Cressman did not shoot down all funding

3) Positive things out of meeting - Stoneburry Crossing piece from Hinkley to Bacci's will mostly get constructed this year or in 04'. Charlie Coldwell was extremely concerned with that piece of missing sidewalk. Crosswalk is illegal due to curve in road on Rte. 38. The cost to do this project is approximately \$55,000. The high price tag is due to the fact that a retaining wall must be built. More than likely some funds will come out of Bill Burris fund of \$25 K and some funds will come from Sidewalk Fund.

Steve Sedgewick has approached McDonalds to fund a sidewalk in front of their restaurant.

The Roy St. to Saunders Field Sidewalk which is less than 100 feet has also been priced out at \$6,500.

The Shawsheen/Rte 38 project has been moved up on the tip list. Dave Cressman will believe it when he sees the project starting construction.

The big issue is can we get sidewalks installed along side the sewer project. The bigger question is where is the money going to come from?

Cressman stated that he is not apposed to the submission of an Article at town meeting weather it is an override of 2 ½ or not.

Jerry Sellison mentioned that there could be some funds available for the construction of sidewalks for Shawsheen Street. It is a hazardous road.

Jerry mentioned there are definite synergies between the Five year Sidewalk plan and The Sewer Committee. Jerry invited Mike, Franco, and others to attend the December Sewer Committee meeting which will meet with CDC.

Jerry mentioned that CDC could do some pre-work for sidewalks when they are putting in the sewers. Jerry has spoken to Charlie Coldwell and Dave Cressman concerning these synergies. He would be more than happy to speak to the other selectmen.

Jerry mentioned that a lot of roads are going to be paved as part of the Sewer plan. Those funds from Chapter 90 can be freed up for sidewalks. In 2006 our disposal funds are also going to drop drastically. Ie: Take 50K from Chapter 90. Take \$50K from Disposal savings and you have \$100,000 to start constructing sidewalks on Shawsheen Street. Jerry thinks sidewalks are overdue on Shawsheen Street. Jerry has an interest in this matter. We have to put a bid in for the 2006 funds from disposal account **now**. Jerry also recommends that we get a representative from the Finance Committee to become a member of the Sidewalk Committee.

Mike mentioned from a civil engineering standpoint that there are a ton of synergies from the construction of roadway and sidewalks. The sewer meeting will most likely be in early December.

Franco asked Jerry if the Selectman would be supportive of a percentage of Chapter 90 Funds each year to go toward the construction of sidewalks. Our research of neighboring towns shows that most towns do allocate a certain % of funding from Chapter 90 Funds. Will Board of Selectman support a monetary limit from Chapter 90 funds as well?

Franco asked would we have to alter 5 yr plan? Does North Street already have sewers?

Jerry recommended we get the message out to Selectman Sears, Gill, and Ryan. Get a presentation together and establish a meeting site at one of the schools. Get Channel 10 to come down to the meeting and televise the meeting. Establish charts and a power point presentation. He believes this approach will get people on our side. Joe Gill is believed to support sidewalks. Joe Gill and Charlie Coldwell are up for reelection.

One point that Franco did forgot to bring up at town meeting is why sidewalks were not on the Town Managers Capital Improvement Project list.

Jerry lasted mentioned that the Sidewalk Committee needs to become a squeaky wheel.

Elaine made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mike seconded the motion. Franco declared the meeting over at 8:58 PM.