

Town of Tewksbury
Sidewalk Committee

Meeting Date: June 24th, 2002

Meeting Place: Tewksbury Police Station, Community Room

Attendee's: Franco Lucchesi, Ted Dooling, Matt Dailey, Laura Caplan, Mike Mucci, Carolyn French, Sandra Campo

Meeting Commenced at 7:40pm.

Franco advised members that he spoke with Engineer Dan Coughlin regarding the condition of the curb on Hill Street. Apparently there are already some areas that are not holding up. Mike stated that the sidewalk should be pitched toward the road. Franco stated that they were not able to do that due to a problem with people getting water.

Franco also advised that he received the preliminary drawings for Shawsheen St. from Main to Lowe St. He anticipates receiving the final plans and estimate for that portion of Shawsheen shortly. He stated that he spoke with Bill Burriss DPW who advised him that there should be no land taking for that stretch. He did mention that one homeowner does have a rock wall that appears will have to be re-built but otherwise no other obstacles. Franco spoke with him about devising a plan to standardize sidewalks. Apparently Mr. Burriss was in favor of it; however, he does not feel that granite curbs would substantially improve the safety of the sidewalk. Franco mentioned the condition of the sidewalk in front of Omni Computer.

Mike passed out flyer detailing all the different types of curbs for members review. We will incorporate some of this information into the standards plan we will propose.

Sandra advised that she met with Liz Carey in an attempt to get some details regarding the article for the fall special town meeting and the special election. Liz advised that the dead line for the special election is August 7th and that a majority vote will be required by the Selectmen to get it on the ballot due to the fact that we are seeking a debt exemption. She recommended we put a request in writing to the Selectmen to get on their agenda for their next meeting. Sandra did same. I also advised members that Mrs. Carey suggested we address the maintenance of the sidewalks in town, particularly the ones on Main St. Laura stated that would be the jurisdiction of the DPW and planning board. We stated we would discuss with the Selectmen at the meeting scheduled for June 25th. Ted mentioned that he was under the impression that the town was supposed to spend some chapter 90 funds on the sidewalks.

Franco also advised members that he spoke with Selectmen Anderson regarding our 5 year plan. He stated that Mr. Anderson inquired why we changed our priority list since the previous list was comprised. Franco advised him that we made the appropriate changes based on the changing needs of our community. I.e.; traffic volume, population density and connecting new sidewalks to existing sidewalks. Members also discussed the fact that our new plan affects approximately 20% of the population. Members agreed these were all points of discussion for meeting with the selectmen.

At 8:30 Representative Miceli joined our meeting. Franco presented and discussed our plan with him and informed him of how we came up with our plan. Franco stated that in the future he is hopeful that more chapter 90 funds will be allocated to sidewalks. Mr. Miceli agreed and stated that there should be adequate chapter 90 funds to be able to do so. He also stated that he feels that the budget may not be as bleak a forecast as once thought by town officials. Mr. Miceli also voiced his opinion about having the developers and contractors install sidewalks as they construct developments. Mr. Miceli did advise that he feels our 5 year plan is a very good one and that he does support it.

Ted inquired about the Shawsheen/Main St. project. Mr. Miceli stated that he does not believe there are any funds for it but he was not sure about the details.

Mr. Micelli inquired about the Committee getting the support of the Safety Officer and Fire Lieutenant. Franco advised that there is a new Safety Officer and that we would work on contacting appropriate officials.

May 13th minutes were voted on and accepted.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm.