

Town of Tewksbury
Tewksbury Sidewalk Committee

Meeting: June 11, 2001

Place: Phyllis White's Home at 107A Pleasant Street

Attendees: Laura Caplan, Matthew Dailey, Ted Dooling, Sam Krikorian, Franco Lucchesi, and Phyllis White

Meeting commenced at 7:50 p.m..

May 14, 2001 minutes reviewed and approved unanimously.

Newest member, Ted Dooling welcomed. Ted introduced himself as an 18 year long resident of Tewksbury with long-standing interest in having sidewalks in Tewksbury. A friend recommend he considers our Committee after seeing the opening posted on the Website.

Franco discussed the Livingston Loop project briefly as was hoping that Noel Metcalf could have been at meeting to clarify available funds for this project that Bob Ferrari mentioned at our May 14th meeting.

Laura discussed the Safety Committee Program. She stated video being aired currently on Channel 22. It educates people on how to utilize roadways without sidewalks, among other safety subjects. Also, the Superintendent of Tewksbury Public Schools sent letter to Sidewalk Committee inviting us to next year's Children's Opportunity Fair. Laura to continue to look into obtaining funds for handouts such as magnets to the public with web address. Franco asked Laura to see if could have promotional items by Fall. Laura said she would try!

Franco explained how other communities such as Billerica and Burlington have obtained more sidewalks than Tewksbury recently. These communities have utilized most of their Chapter 90 funds (stated funds allocated to each community) while Tewksbury has earmarked theirs for a 3-year road-repaving project due to the poor state our roads are currently.

Ted Dooling questioned whether we could research safety concerns on pedestrian incidents in the past years due to lack of sidewalks. Franco thought could obtain from Safety Office Kathy McLeod.

Website: Franco asked Matt about how the number of hits is calculated on web. Matt was unsure if recalculates same person each time goes on same day or not. Franco suggested we have our own Form on Web. Matt to work on during the summer and report back in fall.

Franco had spoken to Bill Burris regarding Walgreens sidewalk condition again. Bill had stated that once new incoming Planning Board Chair up to speed, as just hired, should then be able to work on this project. Franco also to check with Bill in regards to Sidewalk Article being in place for October Spec. Town Meeting as promised.

NIMCOG update: Franco spoke with Beverly Woods regarding possible funds. The outlook is not good. Again funding is approximately \$800,000 dividable by 9 communities it is serving currently. It appears that the Big Dig is having a bigger impact for the future as any projects that were put on hold as a result of the Big Dig, will take up funds and no additional funds come year 2004 after completion of Big Dig! Beverly suggest we seek local funding for sidewalks

Ted mentioned the need to have local businesses involved. Franco shared the attempt with a mailing to local businesses a couple of years ago and the \$200 outcome as most businesses felt they pay their taxes for this.

The Route 38 Corridor Survey was also discussed by Franco. New director now. The Committee consists of Mass Highway personnel, NIMCOG, Selectmen, Planning board members and Sidewalk Committee members. With new Director, they will be redoing the Survey (old Survey given to Ted by Phyllis) and should have it July/August of this year. Ted mentioned would be happy to put something together with facts from current survey for newspapers to generate more support for sidewalks.

It was discussed that reminders needed for October's Special Town Meeting as Sidewalk Article should be line item that was postponed from Annual May Town Meeting.

Sam had recommended a Maintenance Written Policy be put in place for sidewalks and another for criteria for installing sidewalks. Mike Mucci was recommend to be asked to help with this project.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m..