DEPT./BOARD: Sidewalk Study Committee

DATE: 4/29/19

TIME: 7:00 P.M.

PLACE: Grand View Farms Tavern

Agenda:

1. Public Participation
2. Survey Results Discussion
3. Draft Recommendations
4. Approval of Minutes
5. Adjournment
In attendance: Chr. Steve Morin, Millie Nash, Adam Senesi, Christine Warren, and David Van Camp

In preparation for a report to Town Meeting we now have these visuals:

--The “red” map of un-sidewalked streets

--The heat map of our survey responses indicating most mentioned needs

--Chris’s table and pie chart of survey response breakdowns

(with Chris cutting/pasting 4 especially insightful survey comments highlight).

The list of ideas generated by the committee and survey now includes:

--The need to address liquor licenses, which add to the necessity of sidewalks (plus the town should work with other business/commercial developments in this respect)

--The need to find out legal needs and issues impacting sidewalks, (e.g., re possible “No Through Traffic” postings on cut-through streets such as Foster/College Rd.)

--The need to consider green infrastructure alternatives addressing sidewalk issues

--Creating more one-way streets

--Possibly moving utility poles embedded in sidewalks (as 5G technology devices are installed)

--Lowering speed limits to 25 mph (as other towns are doing)

--Creating a possible power-line path parallel to Locust

--Adding a modest annual budget item ($100,000-$200,000, possibly from free cash and/or the Marshall Simonds trust [since sidewalks provide healthful recreational exercise])—with a first priority for elementary schools and neighborhood parks—and a second priority re current sidewalk gaps (requiring multiple street crossings to navigate on foot)

--Consider footbridges (especially where developers might both pay and benefit)
--Consider tax abatements for residents yielding land for sidewalks.

--Consider possibly creating a standing committee for sidewalks.

Problems arising from sidewalks include trade-offs, e.g., the additional costs arising from maintenance needs, snow plowing, etc.

Some preliminary report takeaways:

--Implementation must be incremental.

--The five most serious areas re sidewalks seem to be Donald Road, Stony Brook, Cambridge Street, Francis Wyman and Locust (this alone is estimated to cost five million dollars)—with the north edge of Burlington (the Fox Hill and Pine Glen areas) especially mentioned in the survey. (Christine and Steve will talk with Martha Simon about this.)

--The philosophy of addressing school and park areas first seems a proper priority.

--With Cambridge Street being a state highway, we need to discuss sidewalks there with Representative Ken Gordon and Senator Cindy Friedman.

--We need to figure how much get done with a $100 per linear foot cost.

Our next meeting, May 6, 2019, will be our last before Town Meeting begins.

--submitted by Millie Nash