DEPT./BOARD: Sidewalk Study Committee

DATE: 6/3/2019

TIME: 7:00 P.M.

PLACE: Tavern, Grand View Farm

Agenda:

1. Public Participation
2. Prepare for Survey
3. Prepare Draft Recommendation
4. Approval of Minutes
5. Adjournment
TOWN OF BURLINGTON

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Notice of Public Meeting – (As required by G.L. c. 30 A, c. §18-25)

BURLINGTON SIDEWALK COMMITTEE MINUTES
June 3, 2019
Grandview Farm

In attendance: Chr. Steve Morin, Christine Warren, Adam Senesi, Millie Nash

Steve reported on his meeting during Rep. Ken Gordon’s Office Hours: State funds for sidewalks would come from Chapter 90 money or the “Complete Streets” program (which has been adopted by the town): In order to apply, one needs to send in a several-paragraphs request for sidewalk funding…and Tom Hayes has a prioritized list of such sites. Projects have cost from $250,000 to $400,000. Cambridge Street seems a prime possibility; it’s a state road and its sidewalks are in disrepair—as well as having gaps in their continuity. Steve and Adam (and possibly John Larson [who volunteered to help re Cambridge St. needs]) hope to photograph faulty conditions this weekend as part of the Mass. DOT documentation for state funding. (We also need to bring all town officials on board.)

Fifty-six additional sidewalk responses (from Precinct 7) have been added to the 150 original Facebook and library responses (plus one anonymous phone call concerning Winter Street).

In anticipation of the report to be presented at a public forum on June 18th, Adam offered to write a draft of the introduction—scope and charter—of the Sidewalk Committee. Christine offered the “What we’ve done” segment (including town officials involved and our input). Steve agreed to write the feedback section.

What we’ve learned includes:

- “Complete Streets” possibilities and priorities
- The current “no new sidewalks” policy—with replacement/repair the current focus
- The “red line” map of Burlington streets w/o sidewalks (plus pie chart of concerns and a heat map of severe needs areas)
- Funding the biggest sidewalk issue
- Internal personnel to tackle additional sidewalk needs
- Resident feedback via a simple survey
- Masterplan support
- The interconnection of sidewalks/traffic/public transportation

Our recommendations might include:

- How to prioritize
- Funding (Free Cash + “Complete Streets”)

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- Writing an allocation for new Burlington sidewalks into state law (via Representative Gordon)
- The need for a standing committee on sidewalks

Our next meeting: 7 pm Monday, June 10, with (possibly) 10 minutes for Martha Simon...plus prioritizing the five top streets (w/ reasons) and a policy statement (re economic advantages, safety issues, parks and schools access, and the value of an attractively walkable town)...as well as finalizing the report drafts.

—submitted by Millie Nash