



SIDEWALK COMMITTEE

SEPTEMBER 18, 2013

Present: Chair Robert Stevens, Laurie Boldis, Sandy Carlin,
Sindy Morse, Sharon Weed;

Laura Johnson, Trustee Liaison; James Tornatore, Mayor

R. Stevens called meeting to order @ 7:02 PM. R. Stevens was on last sidewalk committee, and stated clear definitions and surveys of all sidewalks were done in 2007; previous survey also done 1982. There have been staff changes in code enforcement, and in Village Board and these contributed to lack of consistency and failure to commit to this issue. R. Stevens stated improvements are unknown, and that is what this committee will be asked to do. In 2007 survey, it was clear where sidewalks are not feasible, such as poles, trees, buildings, etc; others may not consider this fair, but it was a realistic conclusion and laid out in the recommendation. If there was to be foot traffic from school children, and those walking to businesses then those areas recommended for improvement, and also those areas where there were gaps between existing sidewalks.

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J. Tornatore stated the Village is ready to send another survey if that is what the committee wants.

R. Stevens stated indifference is prominent in this issue, and this indifference has shown itself in other Village issues, i.e. water project.

L. Boldis stated people needed to be motivated, but a large number may not be able to afford to do the work.

R. Stevens stated unknown if grants can be parlayed into public construction, i.e. Berkshire NY got grant.

J. Tornatore stated DOT was contacted for grant information, as well as Tioga Opportunities; Tioga Opportunities has no funding available; unknown is Bishop Sheen offers monies to individuals; and same with Mildred Faulkner Fund. R. Stevens stated he thought there was façade grant monies, that included sidewalks.

J. Tornatore stated that he would follow up with Teresa Saraceno to verify if monies available for only businesses, or if individuals could apply. The other money sources as stated also need exploring.

R. Stevens also said in past, that even with financial sources given to residents, there was deep reluctance with residents to provide personal financial information to funding sources.

S. Carlin suggested a community initiative approach wherein sponsors from local churches, youth groups from schools and community services could actually build the sidewalks with professional guidance; experienced crew sets the standard and teaches others. Businesses/individuals could donate materials, such as cement, gravel. There could be support from younger youth to assist with food & drink for workers, with older youth having more hands on the project.

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R. Stevens liked the idea of tapping into community pride, and not relying on government assistance. R. Stevens asked S. Carlin to take the lead in contacts with local and community groups & businesses.

Group consensus was that the survey needed to be updated. Each member stated what streets they would survey, with the results of the survey due at next month's meeting.

S. Weed stated some sidewalks were pulled up by residents.

J. Tornatore stated where there were sidewalks there should be sidewalks again, with no gaps, as per the last committee's recommendations. It will be up to code enforcement to follow through with Village residents.

R. Stevens stated this issue can't be allowed to be put off.

L. Johnson asked the question of how it would be handled for those individuals who cannot pay.

R. Stevens stated provisions were put in Village Code to allow legal follow through for those individuals, i.e. Village puts sidewalk in and charges individual's property tax.

R. Stevens stated it needed to be conveyed that sidewalks are good for the community and also good for the owner's property value.

S. Carlin stated the residents needed to be motivated at the beginning and middle of this issue, with the Village providing the enforcement at the end.

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There was brief discussion about other community issues such as establishing a 'community service day' to help those residents with issues, i.e. yard clean up, as suggested by S. Morse; another idea was a community garden on S Main St near reservoir, as suggested by R. Stevens.

Consensus of group was that third Wednesday of each month @ 7 PM was a good day/time to stick with.

Minutes, and the sign in sheet with phone numbers & e-mails will be sent to all.

Meeting adjourned at 7:54 PM.

Kathy McCall
Account Clerk Typist

NEXT MEETING
OCTOBER 16 th @ 7 PM
in NOBLE ROOM