

**Prospect Sidewalk Task Force
Regular Meeting
Unapproved Minutes
December 9, 2015**

Meeting started at 3:35 P.M. The meeting was held in the large conference room, Prospect Town Hall, 36 Center Street.

Members Present: Carla M. Perugini-Erickson, Ronald Laone, Jack Crumb, Mayor Robert Chatfield.

Members Absent: Jeffrey Holley

Guests: Joe Paternoster, District Service Agent #2, State DOT (joseph.paternoster@ct.gov)

Discussion:

Group introduced to Joe Paternoster who came to Sidewalk Task Force meeting to discuss State DOT requirements for sidewalks on Rt. 69. DOT requirements for sidewalk plan – minimum 18 inches for curbing, and if Town intends to include lighting, the light poles must be included in the sidewalk plan for approval. Lighting must be outside the right of way.

If Town intends to include benches, they have to be shown on the plan, and they must be outside the right of way. The Town has to maintain the benches.

Sidewalks can be asphalt or concrete, but ADA ramps have to be concrete. Joe advised that many towns prefer asphalt sidewalks because the road salt during the winter eats away at the concrete. For asphalt sidewalks, they will need to be at least 4 feet wide because that is what the asphalt machine lays down. Cheshire did asphalt under pavers. Can stamp asphalt or concrete.

Trees are permitted within the State's right of way, but Town is responsible for maintenance. It is better to set sidewalks further off the road, and be sure not to plant trees too close to sidewalk because the roots can come up and heave the asphalt. Granite curbing is allowed, but the Town has to maintain it. If the State breaks the granite, they will replace it with asphalt.

Joe advised New Milford just did sidewalks, and they added water gardens for the run-off. The sidewalks are in downtown New Milford. Also, Cheshire and Rocky Hill just did sidewalks if we want to take a look at them.

As far as crosswalks, if they are already existing, then the sidewalk plan approval can be at the local DOT (District #4 is in Thomaston), but if there are new sidewalks proposed in the plan, then Newington Traffic Engineering Dept. has to review the plans.

As far as light poles, if they are electric, then Newington Traffic Engineering Dept. has to review the plans.

For trash cans/benches, if they are within the right of way, the DOT will require a maintenance agreement, but the agreement is NOT needed if they are outside the right of way.

To determine sidewalk location, need to pull the A2 survey map to see the set back lines. Need to determine how many feet from the yellow line the sidewalks can go – will need a surveyor to see where sidewalks can go. If the sidewalk is within the State setback line, then the plan needs to be submitted to the State for approval. If they are NOT within the setback line, then Town can decide where they want the sidewalks to go.

Joe Paternoster advised he will look into the Rt. 69 expansion map to see if the State DOT has plans as to the sidewalks.

Joe suggested for more information, UCONN offer classes for public works employees called the Public Works Academy, and public work employees have the chance to become Road Scholars or Highway Scholars. It is helpful because a Town planning to install sidewalks can learn about the pros and cons for sidewalks from the experiences of other towns. There is also a town public works list serve that you can tap into for more information about sidewalks.

For comparison, Cheshire set up sidewalks in a 2 year project, and they completed sidewalks in phases:

1. Sidewalks installed 1000 ft at a time
2. Next the conduit for lights was installed
3. Finally, the light poles were installed

Group thanked Joe Paternoster for his helpful information.

Next meeting scheduled for December 28, 2015 @ 3:30 p.m. and Jay Laone (son of Ron Laone) will present a visual of what sidewalks in the business areas of Route 69 and Route 68 would look like.

NEXT MEETING: DECEMBER 28, 2015 AT 3:30 P.M. AT TOWN HALL.

Meeting adjourned 4:30 p.m.

Submitted by:

Carla M. Perugini-Erickson