

**Town of Kent – Streetscape Committee**  
**Regular Meeting – May 12, 2018**

**Present:** Mike Everett, John Casey, Rick Osborne, Jim Blackketter, Catherine Bachrach, David Bain, Bruce Adams, John Johnson and Lauri Zarin, guest.

The meeting was convened at 8:05 a.m. by Chairman Mike Everett. The minutes of the April 28 Special Meeting were approved on a motion by David and second by Jim. Payment of \$5,500 to Milone and MacBroom for the first 55% of the planning consultation was approved on a motion by Jim and second by David. John Casey will get clarification of what else will be covered. It was reported that the Board of Selectman approved two additional committee spots at its most recent meeting and appointed Hedy Kinney.

Patco Status: Bruce reported on his understanding of what is happening. The Patco closed on 5/11/2018 and the expectation is that it will open under new ownership in the next few weeks. Bruce spoke with DOT supervisor Gina Greenalch about what would trigger required changes to access/sidewalks and when DOT would be involved. Certain work on the building would require approval by the Architectural Review Board. It was agreed that committee members should meet with the new owners to discuss pedestrian needs.

Public Comment: Lauri Zarin presented a letter dated 5/11/18 concerning sidewalks and walkways. Rick mentioned a webinar scheduled for 5/29 on signage.

Updated plans and estimated costs: The committee considered the plans and costs submitted by Milone MacBroom and agreed that the following questions and suggestions would be communicated by John - The length of Maple Street sidewalks? How much would the cost come down if the entire project was done at once, especially mobilization and removal? How much would placing conduits for lighting rather than installing all the lighting bring the cost down? It was agreed that the six lights closest to the 7/341 intersection be removed.

Moving forward: The goal is to take the plan to a special meeting of the BOS in mid-June. On a motion by John Casey and second by John Johnson, the committee voted to make a presentation to the BOS with the request that a Town Meeting be scheduled to present and adopt the plan and approve borrowing funds from USDA to complete the whole project. Everyone agreed that the recommendation of lowering the speed limit to 25 MPH and installing "Your Speed Is" signs be part of the recommendation.

Bruce will check on the status of the Community Connectivity grant and report back.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 on a motion by Jim Blackketter.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Bachrach, Secretary

**These are draft minutes and the Streetscape Committee may make corrections at its subsequent meeting.**  
**Please refer to subsequent meeting minutes for possible corrections and approval of these minutes.**

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KENT TOWN CLERK

2018 MAY 16 P 3:14

BY   
TOWN CLERK

May 11, 2018

To: The Kent Sidewalk Committee  
Kent, CT

From: Lauri Zarin  
60 Cobble Lane  
Kent, CT 06757

Re: Proposed Sidewalk & Lighting Renovation and Creating an UNPAVED  
Walkway From Town to Cobble Lane

Dear Sidewalk Committee,

Having walked all of the sidewalks in Kent that are proposed for replacement it is my sense that sidewalk renovation should focus mainly on the center of town south of the railroad tracks. The sidewalks north of the railroad tracks are in fine shape, easy for walking, and they are low-key and blend nicely with the surroundings. Also, it seems unnecessary to do anything except minor repairs to existing sidewalks east and west of Main Street along Rt. 341. Anything more strikes me as a colossal waste of money, and not even a visual improvement, with no added value for the town.

I'd like to propose that a gravel walkway running along Rt. 7 north of town to Cobble Lane would be a lot cheaper and offer real added value in terms of safety and accessibility for walkers and joggers along the Cobble. But I am not simply trying to free up funds for my walkway idea. Even if you never make a walkway to Cobble Lane, my opinion is that less is more with respect to the sidewalk renovations. Don't lose the authentic small town feel—it's okay to have some sidewalks that are less pronounced. (See my postscript about Great Barrington.)

Also, I am concerned about the plan for new lights along Main Street and would like to suggest that you not use LEDs or other harsh lighting. In addition to the quality of the light produced, please be mindful of the style and scale of the lights, so that they are in keeping with the charm of small town New England.

Also, bright lights create glare on the night sky, LIGHT POLLUTION, that blocks out the stars. And before you take money from the State, please check that there are no strings attached with respect to the type and scale of lights that must be installed.

Kind regards,

Lauri Zarin  
LZarin@mac.com, c—203-240-1139, h—860-927-1121

P.S. The new, hard-edged granite sidewalks in Great Barrington have ruined the authentic New England character of that town. And their new lights (state mandated when they got funds from the state) are out of scale with the small town architecture. Sometimes less is more.

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