

KENT STREETScape COMMITTEE

MINUTES FROM SPECIAL MEETING

Tuesday, 27 August 2019 @ 5:00pm

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
KENT TOWN CLERK
2019 AUG 28 P 1:16
BY [Signature]
TOWN CLERK

A meeting was held on 27 August 2019 @ 5:00pm at Town Hall. Those **Present** on the Committee were: John Johnson, Mike Gawel and Wes Wyrick. **Guests** included: Carl from Templeton Farms, Allan and Cori Larocxue, Catherine Bachrach and Rick Osborne. The meeting was called to order @ 5:00 by John. The following actions were taken:

- A motion to amend the Meeting Minutes of 20 August 2019 to read: "...Concrete can be more slippery than asphalt ("concrete" deleted) was made by Mike, seconded by John, and voted to approve as amended, 3 to 0.
- Catherine Bachrach presented a prepared narrative to the committee, text attached to these Minutes. Also, attached is a narrative dated 8/6/19, Meeting of 8/6/19, amended to include.
- A letter from Bob Indorf, dated 8/23/19, expressing his preference for the use of concrete for sidewalk construction is attached to these Minutes.
- An e-mail from Melissa Roth-Cherniske on behalf of the Kent Center School Board of Education, dated 8/20/19, expressing need to extend new sidewalks with ADA crossings at Elizabeth Street across Route 341 be considered by the Committee is attached for the record.
- An email from Gary Davis, dated 8/27/19, showing pictures from Tupper Lake, NY Main Street sidewalks is attached for the record.
- No other comments on the Michael Doherty presentation last meeting were made.
- Mike submitted area calculations of sidewalks of Section 2 (341/Route 7 to Tracks) and preliminary pricing for review and discussion. Numbers to be further studied for eventual BOS presentation in September.
- John reported that an application for a Federal grant for new sidewalk construction has been started with the help of Rick Lynn.
- Wes will check on the availability of Elyse for a 9/3 Meeting. If she is not available, the consensus was to NOT schedule a meeting for 9/3.
- Mikes made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Wes at 6:30pm, carried 3 to 0.

Respectfully submitted in draft by Wes, Secretary, this 28th day of August 2019

Minutes are not considered final until approved. Refer to Minutes of the ensuing meeting for any changes / corrections.

August 27, 2019

To: Streetscape Committee #2

From: Catherine Bachrach, Member/ Committee #1

Re: Streetscape Issues

The first committee, in its early deliberations in 2010 or 2011, listed the following goals for its work for sidewalks in the Village Center. I trust the goals of your committee are similar:

- Enhance public safety
- Bring sidewalks in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- Encourage walking and improve the experience of residents and visitors
- Allow sidewalks to become social space – and improve our local economy
- Make the Town a more desirable place to live, work and visit
- Add the spillover benefit of broadening the tax base
- Unite the commercial area, which is currently bifurcated by railroad tracks and a railroad crossing.

Materials and extent of project: One of the most useful “field trips” undertaken by the earlier committee (which had to be noticed as a meeting) was one to Falls Village as the work on its sidewalk project was wrapping up. The “center of the village” piece was more complex than ours but we learned from then-First Selectman Pat Mechare that they put the project as desired out to bid and then made adjustments, working with the contractor and engineer. Their finished product, done with a \$500,000 Streetscape grant, is impressive and features – yes – concrete sidewalks and granite curbing.

Concrete vs asphalt – I trust that current committee members have done what earlier ones did. In addition to walking Kent’s sidewalks repeatedly, as individuals we visited other towns to observe the materials used and sidewalk design, including Lakeville and Salisbury, Great Barrington and others – places near and far.

As noted earlier by others, we have three examples of the value of concrete in our village – the sidewalk on the 341 bridge across the Housatonic, which was done in 1991 with concrete and has no cracks, the sidewalks outside Town Hall, done in 1989, and the sidewalks along the railroad tracks, along the side of the station. Those sidewalks are perhaps more than 50 years old.

Compare those surfaces to the relatively new path on the north side of Maple Street, an asphalt surface which already has cracks and dips where water accumulates and freezes. Or the sidewalk in front of St. Andrew’s Church, where the curb repeatedly gets gouged by DOT snowplows and the sidewalk has an uneven surface where the surface has stripped off.

Extent of project: I encourage the committee to reconsider its “discussion” of ending the sidewalk at the railroad tracks on the west side of Main Street North/Route 7. The Fife ‘n Drum is a major draw for visitors to Kent, as shown by its full parking lot, especially on weekends. Why orphan one of the most important businesses in town when linking all the business area by sidewalks has been a consistent goal of the Streetscape Project? Similarly, why not include Bridge Street west of the St. Andrew’s driveway and make adjustments later if necessary?

August 6, 2019

To: Streetscape Committee #2
From: Catherine Bachrach
Re: Streetscape Issues

I trust that all of the members of the first Streetscape Committee are cheering you on from afar, with the hope that your work can be as timely as possible to avoid the loss of either of the two grants. I share a few concerns/suggestions from our earlier work.

Strip at Edge of Sidewalk Lynn Worthington's 8/1/19 article mentioned that there had been discussion of a cobblestone edging between the sidewalk and curb. The earlier committee had discussed a possible brick "soldier course" but had concerns about maintenance and cost. A level brick edging might work, but cobblestone would be a challenge for anyone with mobility issues.

I was working at the New Milford Senior Center when that town installed Bomanite faux cobblestone sidewalks. The day after they were installed, many elders returned to the senior center saying that they were unable to walk comfortably on the surface. I also accompanied elders to doctor appointments in the Barns complex and noted that navigating the cobblestone surfaces there was problematic. Cobblestone edging would be a definite trip hazard for many.

Crosswalks I think all of the members of Streetscape #1 advocated for additional crosswalks, especially one closer to Route 341 near Giffords or Kingsley Tavern. All of us have noted, however, that many people ignore the existing crosswalks as do many drivers, something I observed repeatedly this last Sidewalk Sale weekend when cashiering at the library book sale. Is community education part of the answer? Increased enforcement, especially of drivers who park in crosswalks and ignore pedestrians in the crosswalk? Can DOT or the Town purchase more noticeable signs to place in the crosswalks, perhaps with small solar flashing lights?

Mobil Station Corner This corner continues to be, I suspect, a major concern. As mentioned earlier, Templeton Farm residents have expressed fear of walking along the Maple Street side because cars entering and exiting are not mindful of pedestrians, which is why they tend to cross to the north side of Maple Street/341 at Swift Lane.

During the Committee's 10/19/2017 meeting with CT DOT Senior Traffic Engineer Gina Greenalch she noted that DOT would "look at the corner to see if anything else is possible short term," noting that DOT would not become involved in redesign/compliance enforcement until new ownership or improvements take place. Perhaps Bruce or Rick have had further conversations with her or others in DOT, but would it be helpful to revisit this issue sooner rather than later to determine if DOT has developed any plans?

Additional, low-cost options When next presenting to the town, I encourage the committee to also endorse some additional suggestions, such as lowering the speed limit to 25 MPH (as in Sherman) and installing temporary or permanent "Your Speed Is" signs at three locations- north and south of town on Route 7 and east of town on Route 341.

Good luck as you move forward with this very important work!

Attached: Notes from Greenalch meeting

August 23, 2019

Dear Chairman and Committee Members,

First I would like to thank you all for volunteering your time. I have attended several of the town meetings regarding the streetscape over the last couple years, including last Tuesday. All seems to be going along fine, except for the choice of material to be used. It is my belief that if this project is going to proceed, the walkway should be concrete. I have heard the pros and cons and won't argue those in this letter. I have come to the conclusion that concrete is definitely the better choice for Kent. There are many examples of longevity and quality of concrete, such as in front of the post office (48 years old), Town Hall (30 years old), etc..., and if installed properly concrete will last many decades. In addition to the longevity and strength of concrete, I believe aesthetically is the better choice. The color is light and stays light which keeps the heat down (better for dogs, shoes and reflective heat). If the town is to spend millions of dollars on such a project, with all the prep and granite curbing, it would be my choice to do it right, and use concrete! Thank you for listening to my opinion regarding this matter.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bob Indorf". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Bob Indorf
Kent resident

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[illegible]

• Wiederholungsfragen

[illegible]



Mike Gawel <mikegawel@gmail.com>

Letter from March 2019

1 message

Melissa Roth-Cherniske <rothcherniske@gmail.com>
To: Mike Gawel <mikegawel@gmail.com>

Tue, Aug 20, 2019 at 10:01 AM

Mike this is the letter from March 2019 that was sent out by the KCS board of Education that is still pertinent.

Dear Members of the Streetscape Committee and the Kent Board of Selectmen,

Please read this letter at the next Selectmen's meeting and the next Streetscape Committee meeting and include in the meeting minutes for both commissions.

We have followed the hearings on the plan for the renovations of the sidewalks in Kent and we are concerned that the current plan does not include in the plan are the sidewalks on Elizabeth Street from Kent Center School to Route 341. It is in just as poor condition, if not worse, as the sidewalks being discussed. The plan also does not include a handicap access to the crossing walk on Elizabeth Street.

Kent Center School relies heavily on these sidewalks. We have 20+ students that walk to and from school daily, and our special needs class walks into town at least once a week for community occupational therapy. At this time, we do not have a student in a wheelchair, but at any time we could, and this would make the trip inaccessible to these students. In addition, our annual curriculum involves students walking as a class to and from the library, the IGA, and the Kent Art Association. And finally, and most importantly, our Evacuation Plan calls for the students to walk to the Kent School Engineering building. This is a mandatory evacuation on foot that is for our entire student body and staff and is practiced annually. The condition of the sidewalk from KCS to Route 341 and the lack of ADA handicap accessible crossing point are a liability to our students safety.

The Kent Board of Education strongly requests that the current sidewalk plan be modified to include renovations on Elizabeth Street and handicap access to the crosswalk.

Respectfully

The Kent Center School Board of Education

Martin Lindenmeyer - Chairman
Gonzalo Garcia-Pedroso
Melissa Cherniske
Dana Slaughter
Jenn Duncan
Cici Nielsen

Melissa Roth Cherniske

From: **Bruce Adams** firstselectman@townofkentct.org &
Subject: Fwd: Summer sidewalks
Date: August 27, 2019 at 9:36 AM
To: John Johnson john.adele@charter.net

BA

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Gary Davis** <gcd55flood@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Aug 26, 2019 at 7:02 PM
Subject: Fwd: Summer sidewalks
To: <firstselectman@townofkentct.org>

Hi Bruce,
Bobbie and I were in Tupperware Lake New York about a month ago and took these pictures. The Main Street looked great with the cement sidewalks, not sure how long ago they were done. We were in Waitsfield Vermont in August and they had similar sidewalks. The winter weather in both towns is harsher than in Kent. I think Main Street in Kent would like great with sidewalks like those in Tupper. Just my opinion.
Thanks
Gary

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: **Bobbie Davis** <bobbdavis128@gmail.com>
Date: August 26, 2019 at 6:41:12 PM EDT
To: gcd55flood@gmail.com
Subject: Fwd: Summer sidewalks

Thanks and enjoy this day! Bobbie

Begin forwarded message:

In Tupper Lake.





Sent from my iPhone Enjoy this day!

--
Bruce K. Adams
First Selectman
Town of Kent, CT
860-927-4627





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2019 AUG 28 P 1:17

BY

D. Broady
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