

**ARTICLE 19. ZONING BYLAW AMENDMENT - SIDEWALKS IN VILLAGE
DISTRICT REGULATIONS**

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning Bylaw – Section 5 – Definitions - § 200-5.17 (c) Village District Regulations, to insert the underlined language and delete the strikethrough language, as follows, or take any action relative thereto or thereon:

C. Pedestrian amenities.

(1) Provision for safe and convenient pedestrian access shall be incorporated into plans for new construction of buildings and parking areas and should be designed in concert with landscaping plans. New construction should improve pedestrian access to buildings, sidewalks and parking areas and should be completed with considerations of pedestrian safety, handicapped access and visual quality.

(2) If no public sidewalk exists across the frontage of the lot, a paved sidewalk of at least four (4) feet in width shall be provided within the front yard setback or within the municipal right of way as approved by the Planning Board; and to the maximum extent possible, the sidewalk shall be designed to create a continuous pedestrian walkway with the abutting properties. Where sidewalk construction is not feasible or practical, the Planning Board may require the applicant to provide a sidewalk in another location or make a payment in lieu of sidewalk construction to the Town of Charlton special sidewalk fund in an amount determined by the Planning Board. The applicant shall provide a construction and maintenance easement to the Town of Charlton for all approved sidewalks.

(3) At a minimum, fifty percent (50%) of the walls of ground floor spaces directly facing streets shall have transparent window and door openings, placed at the eye level of pedestrians [between three (3) feet and eight (8) feet above grade]. The Planning Board may waive this standard for redevelopment if compliance would create an economic hardship or cause undesirable changes to the facade of the building. To allow people to see interesting things inside buildings, fixed interior walls shall not obscure views into the building.

(4) Commercial and office building should include features such as awnings, canopies, bay windows, plazas, balconies, decorative detail, public seating, and well-designed lighting to encourage visual interest for pedestrians.

SPONSOR: PLANNING BOARD

MOTION: I move that Article 19 be accepted as printed.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE: n/a

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN: n/a

RECOMMENDATION OF THE PLANNING BOARD: Planning Board supports this motion.

2/3rds Vote Needed per MGL Chapter 40A, Section 5, fifth paragraph

MOTION PASSES BY NECESSARY 2/3RD VOTE 55 – YES, 21 - NO