

**SIDEWALK COMMITTEE
JULY 7, 2017 AT 1:00 PM**

MINUTES

In Attendance

Gardner Bunting, Vicki Carmean, Mary Ellen Langan, Richard Mais, Bernie Merritt, Pat Schuchman, Terry Tieman, Bill Weistling

Council Member Carmean called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

Past History

Town Manager Tieman presented the information on the past history of the sidewalk plans, including an engineering study and another study conducted by DelDot. The last study was completed 15 years ago. She also informed the committee that she has attempted to contact DelDot twice and has not received a return phone call.

Town Manager Tieman suggested that if DelDot does fund the sidewalk project that a bike lane should also be installed. Since this is going to be a costly repair, the project needs to be phased out to begin with the areas that need it the most.

Council Member Carmean remembered from the previous study completed in 2002 that the residents on the north end were not in favor of having sidewalks installed since they did not want anyone walking in front of their homes.

Current Needs

Council Member Bunting suggested that we should start in the commercial portion of the Town. Council Member Carmean stated that the south end of Town, particularly in front of the furniture store, is in very bad shape, although she thinks that portion of sidewalk is out of Town limits.

Council Member Bunting questioned if the State could help with the expense of the project. Town Manager Tieman responded that it should be covered by DelDot since it is a DelDot project. The study from 15 years ago stated the cost of the repairs would be approximately \$64,000. Bill Weistling noted that after reviewing the prior landmark study he noticed the possibility of funding through the EDA if not covered entirely by DelDot. He contacted someone who had recently replaced a sidewalk and was giving an estimate of between \$30,000 - \$50,000 to replace a portion of a sidewalk. Bill estimated that our project would cost approximately \$500,000.

As for a timeline for the repair/replacement, Town Manager Tieman suggested in contacting DelDot to alert them for our need to complete this project due to the safety issue of the sidewalks. Council Member Carmean agreed and added that the sidewalk would aesthetically look better and would also benefit the Town businesses. The committee should compile a list of the areas that are needed first and present to DelDot. Council Member Bunting suggested having someone check on the weekends when there is more pedestrian traffic to see what areas are in need first.

Future Options

Council Member Bunting suggested that we could possibly connect with the ongoing Route 54 sidewalk project to see if they can proceed down Route 1. Council Member Carmean requested Town Manager Tieman to contact DelDot on this issue. Town Manager Tieman added that this might be a good option since there is no access from Route 54 into the Town without sidewalks.

Council Member Bunting also suggested that if DelDot does fund the project that maybe we could add lighting on both sides of Route 1 for safety reasons.

Town Manager Tieman commented that if DelDot does not cover the expense of the project that we could possibly apply for a grant to cover the expense.

Vice Mayor Mais proposed that the Council could approve assessing the property owners for the sidewalk upgrade. Council Mayor Merritt stated that if that was an option, the estimate would be around \$100 per property over a 6-year time frame.

Action Plan

Council Member Carmean elected Town Manager Tieman and Building Official Schuchman to oversee the project.

Bill Weistling noted that some of the businesses may lose frontage due to the 5' width needed for sidewalks. Mary Ellen Langan mentioned that 15 years ago when the study was completed and renovations were going to take place, residents were concerned about having their property taken away from them and requested the Town to reimburse them for the property taken. Council Member Carmean stated that the area does not belong to the residents but in fact belongs to the Town.

Council Member Carmean would like to focus on the existing sidewalks, especially on the west side of Town, since they are a priority.

Council Member Bunting suggested that maybe we could get local politicians/representatives on our side to help with the funding and force the need for the sidewalk project to DelDot.

Adjournment

The next meeting will be scheduled based upon when the representative from DelDot can attend the meeting.

Motion – Council Member Carmean asked for a motion to adjourn.

Second – Vice Mayor Mais.

The meeting adjourned at 1:38 PM.