

VILLAGE BOARD OPERATIONS MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 20, 2018
VILLAGE HALL
9:00 A.M.

PRESENT: Mayor Hubbard, Trustees Dove, Eriksen, and Stokes-Cawley, Planning Board Chair Kenan and Member Sutherland, Special Counsel Galbato

Sidewalks – Mayor Hubbard said there has been a lot of interest in sidewalks with the sidewalk repair/replacement program started last year. The Village replaced existing hazardous sidewalks and shared the cost 50/50 with property owners. Mayor Hubbard said there are some areas with no sidewalks; neighbors on West Elizabeth Street requested installation of new sidewalks, as did Teasel and Goodspeed neighbors for new sidewalks on Onondaga Street. Trustees Stokes-Cawley and Sennett looked at the initial goal to provide a safe way for children to walk to school from any village home. At an Operations Meeting on August 29, 2018, Trustee Stokes-Cawley reviewed her research of the City of Ithaca's sidewalk policy and legislation. The City of Ithaca looks at it as a community resource. Mayor Hubbard said the Village Board is trying to develop a policy village-wide where everyone has a part in the total village asset. In doing so, the Village Board wants to get the Planning Board's thoughts. Mayor Hubbard turned the discussion over to Trustee Stokes-Cawley who presented a power point on the overhead screen. She explained that the mission statement / goal was revised to be more inclusive. It now reads, "To create a pleasurable and safe network of pedestrian walkways for the use, benefit and enjoyment of ALL citizens of the community, including children, the elderly and those with limited mobility. Look at sidewalks as public spaces and a shared community resource." Trustee Stokes-Cawley recited the **History** as follows:

- ❖ 2018 Sidewalk Program (50-50 share with residents for sidewalk repair). The village contacted property owners with the quantity and contracted with Ballard for the work. Mayor Hubbard said the motivating factor was that many areas of sidewalks were in disrepair. The program was very well received by residents. Trustee Stokes-Cawley commented that a mystery person spray painted areas of sidewalk green – areas that were heaved, uneven, etc.
- ❖ Request from West Elizabeth Street neighbors for new sidewalk
- ❖ Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council (SMTTC) conducted a "New Sidewalk Assessment" for the Village to help prioritize the locations of construction of new sidewalks. Maps were produced indicating where sidewalks are and are not. The SMTTC identified priority areas based on proximity to school, population, etc., based on a formula used before. Other maps include roads owned by the Village, traffic volume, accidents, recommendations, etc. The SMTTC concluded that the Village of Skaneateles will need to choose the approach.
- ❖ Requests from Teasel and Goodspeed neighbors for new sidewalks on Onondaga Street
- ❖ Village Board meets at operations meeting to discuss how to pay for and prioritize new sidewalks (8/29/18 & 10/16/18)

Trustee Stokes-Cawley shared the following **Thoughts from the City of Ithaca's Sidewalk Program**

Objectives:

- ❖ Make sidewalk costs fair & predictable for property owners
- ❖ Better, faster sidewalk repair
- ❖ Treat sidewalk as shared resource & build more sidewalks

How:

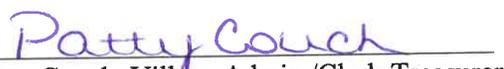
- ❖ Create sidewalk district
- ❖ Each Lot subject to annual assessment. Ithaca's assessment consists of:
 - Low-foot-traffic-lots (one- and two-family homes) pay an annual maintenance fee of \$70
 - All other lots pay \$140 + a square footage fee of \$0.015 per square foot of building on lot + Frontage fee of \$30 for each 50 feet of lot frontage on the street
- ❖ Property owners receive credit for past work

Discussion Questions for Planning & Village Board Re: the Skaneateles Sidewalk Initiative:

- ❖ What is the Planning Board's vision for new sidewalks?
- ❖ What issues do you foresee?
- ❖ What suggestions do you have?
- ❖ How do they foresee sidewalks in new developments?
- ❖ How would you prioritize?
 - Can we agree that all village streets should have a sidewalk on at least one side of the street?
 - Are there areas that because of landscaping, property arrangement that we can't realistically install sidewalks (Whitegate?)

Relative to the property owners who don't want new sidewalks, Planning Board (PB) Member Sutherland asked if it is because of the cost or because they don't want people on their property. Trustee Stokes-Cawley said she doesn't know. PB Chair Kenan said anywhere within walking distance to the school should have sidewalks. The character of a village is to have sidewalks. The Board talked about the school's criteria for busing students. Mayor Hubbard said the school may have a map that radiuses a mile. PB Chair Kenan suggested reaching out to the school to clarify what drives school bus versus no bus. It was noted that Ed Marks told Trustee Stokes-Cawley about the City of Ithaca program and Atty. Pavlus wrote about options that the Village Board is looking at. PB Member Sutherland suggested putting numbers to sections to start bringing a budget to light. Mayor Hubbard said the Village Board needs to consider how to develop a pot of money – DMO Harty will be tasked with determining where sidewalks will be. PB Member Sutherland suggested addressing hazardous conditions first, "low hanging fruit", one side of the street, and eventually the other side of the street. PB Member Sutherland said we should think of sidewalks as a community asset that we all finance. He likened the thought to roads – they are a community asset that we don't pay just a section of. The Board recognized that the Village is one district – being a smaller entity, it wouldn't be broken into separate districts like the City of Ithaca. PB Chair Kenan concluded that having a sidewalk everywhere is the end goal. Mayor Hubbard said that would be the long-term end goal – he envisions 10-20 years. PB Member Sutherland said he thinks a dedicated fund is more palatable to tax payers. Trustee Eriksen suggested determining how many feet we are looking at for new sidewalks and maintenance. PB Member Sutherland said there is a chart that shows the likelihood of accidents based on the width of the road and speeds – that should be considered.

Adjournment – The Operations Meeting adjourned at 9:47 a.m.



Patty Couch, Village Admin./Clerk-Treasurer