

FINANCE COMMITTEE ON ROADS
MINUTES
OCTOBER 19, 2010
7:33 AM @ TOWN GARAGE

ATTENDANCE – Carl Akins, Scott Mayfield, Matt Spinale, Jack Walsh
Superintendent of Streets – Craig Hughes
Warrant Committee’s Liaison – Peter Smith
Selectmen’s Liaison – Joe Melican
Chip Spalding, Jody Shue – citizen attendees

PROPOSED SIDEWALK ON DEDHAM STREET – Chip Spalding (5 Hutton Road) made a presentation regarding the proposed sidewalk project on Dedham Street. Under the current proposal, a new sidewalk would be constructed on the south side of Dedham Street that would extend from 61 Dedham Street to the raised crosswalk at Park Avenue. The purpose of the proposed sidewalk is to make a high traffic area safer for pedestrians and provide continuity between the existing sidewalks in the center of town and the raised crosswalk at Park Avenue. Craig Hughes is helping citizens put together a formal proposal, including a cost estimate. Craig’s current cost estimate is approximately \$23,000 for materials and contractors (berm, etc.) and \$15,000 for the labor cost associated with Highway Department employees. The Committee asked about the scope of the current proposal compared to that from last year. Ms. Spalding confirmed that the sidewalk currently being proposed is about twice as long as the one proposed last year. The Committee also asked about the availability of space along the road for the proposed sidewalk. Craig confirmed that there was plenty of room for the proposed sidewalk, that only a few mailboxes would need to be moved, and that no tree removal would be required. The committee plans to visit the site during their November meeting.

PROPOSED SIDEWALK ON SPRINGDALE STREET – Jody Shue (7 Main Street) made a presentation regarding the proposed sidewalk project on Springdale Avenue. Under the current proposal, a new sidewalk would be constructed on the south side of Springdale Avenue and would extend from the center of town to Main Street. The purpose of the proposed sidewalk is to allow residents to walk to town without walking on Springdale Avenue. Ms. Shue pointed out that all other major roads leading to the center of town already had sidewalks and that Springdale Avenue should also have one because of its high traffic volume. Craig’s current cost estimate is approximately \$134,000 for materials and contractors (berm, etc.) and \$26,000 for the labor cost associated with Highway Department employees. The Committee asked about the rationale for a sidewalk on Springdale Avenue. Ms. Shue said that many residents on Springdale Avenue and Main Street wanted it and would walk to the center of town more often if the sidewalk were constructed. The Committee suggested that it would be useful to have a formal survey of potential usage (# children, etc) in order to better understand the contours of the current need. The Committee also asked why the proposed sidewalk was sited on the south side of Springdale Avenue. Ms. Shue stated that her preference was to have the walk constructed on the north side of Springdale, but it was her understanding that, because of existing conditions (telephone poles, brook crossings,

etc.), it was easier and less expensive to construct on the south side of Springdale Avenue. Craig Hughes confirmed that the south side of Springdale Avenue was the easier side of the street on which to construct the proposed sidewalk. Members of the Committee expressed concern that the location of the proposed sidewalk would require the majority of residents and children to cross Springdale Avenue in order to use the sidewalk. The committee plans to visit the site during their November meeting.

MINUTES – The minutes of the September 21, 2010 meeting were approved with slight edits.

OTHER BUSINESS – The committee also discussed:

- (a) The issue of who should pay the cost of putting engineering plans, etc. together for citizen-sponsored projects;
- (b) Providing input to the Planning board regarding the issue of sidewalks when they conduct the master plan survey;
- (c) The observation that Channing Pond water level seems high. Craig pointed out that although beavers are no longer present, the beaver dam is still in place and that the water level will fall when dam breaks.
- (d) Sodium levels in a well near Whiting Road. Craig has been asked to update the Salt Safety Study.

NEXT MEETING – November 16, 2010 at 7:30 am at the Town Garage. The Committee will visit the sites of the two proposed sidewalk projects.

Meeting adjourned at 8:26 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Scott Mayfield