

Sidewalk Update – POA Annual Meeting 8 July 2019

Over a year ago I presented to the POA Executive Board my request to investigate the installation of a sidewalk along Pine Orchard Road where it became State Rt. 146. My reason for the request was Public Safety. My desk looks over this stretch of 146 and I have seen many pedestrians of all ages being forced to walk or jog on this well-traveled stretch of road.

Robin asked me at the meeting if I would form and chair a committee for this purpose. I said yes with the Executive Board formally approving the committee's formation.

The "Sidewalk Committee" consists of; Rick Ross, Mike Hopkins, Patrick Doyle, Bobby Massey and Edward Perez.

The minutes of our meetings are on the POA web site. PINEORCHARDASSOCIATION.COM

During our first meeting the committee unanimously agreed that such a sidewalk was needed. The committee also agreed that a "Total Plan" should be developed and presented to the Executive Board when done. I presented the "draft" plan last Fall. At the same meeting I shared quotes for a survey of the first section and requested funding which was approved. The survey has been completed to the Town's satisfaction and will be used in a formal bid process if the POA Executive Board votes to go forward.

In addition to committee meetings there were many meetings and phone conversations over the past year with CT DOT and Town personnel. At this point the sidewalk has been surveyed (Juliano Associates) with the Town's First Selectman (Jamie Cosgrove) and Engineer (John Hoefflerle, PE) concurring on the route of the sidewalk. After study and conversations, the committee agreed the sidewalk should be along the north side, be constructed on the State-owned land only and not interfere with existing plantings or structures such as utility poles/access plates, hedges, hydrants and pillars. The north side was selected primarily because of the above ground electrical transformer box and pillar at the corner of Halstead on the south side.

The State requires the sidewalk be constructed to State Building Code (including ADA) and that the Town be responsible for ongoing maintenance-not including snow removal. The committee has recommended to the POA that snow removal be done by the POA contracted company. The Short Beach and Stony Creek Associations pay for the removal of snow from their sidewalks.

During Robin's and my meeting last month with Jamie and John, Jamie said he was to review the end of year financials for the Town to determine how much funding/resources the Town will make available. When this step has been completed, the POA Executive board will be asked to vote on picking up the balance. The total project (Elizabeth/Pine Orchard Rd. to Blackstone/Pine Orchard Rd.) without expected Town assistance has been estimated to be \$75,000.

Respectively submitted,

Peter R. Hugret, 6 Elizabeth Street, Branford, CT

Sidewalk Committee Chair