

Pine Orchard Association (POA) Executive Board authorized sidewalk committee
Minutes of the Meeting 5-21-2018 7:30 PM at Peter Hugret's home

Attending: Peter Hugret (Chair), Edward Perez, Michael Hopkins and Rick Ross

Absent: Bobby Massey

Peter began the meeting by identifying the reason for the meeting and the steps he had already taken to have a more focused meeting. The steps included;

- The initiative came out of becoming more aware of pedestrian safety and the role sidewalks play in keeping vehicles and pedestrians separated. Peter went on to say he believed sidewalks improve the character, relationships and ambience of a neighborhood.
- The existing POA Charter in Section 10 gives the executive board the authority to construct or repair sidewalks within the limits of the POA.
- Spoke with State DOT "Supervising Service Agent", Dan DiReinzo, 203-389-3002 140 Pond Lily, New Haven, 06515 daniel.direinzo@ct.gov. Dan is responsible for State authorizations for sidewalks in this area. Dan told Peter the only time DOT gets involved with sidewalks is when they pave over an existing walkway. When this occurs their sidewalk activity is limited to installing an ADA compliant "landing". Peter asked Dan if the State would have any problem with sidewalks in the Pine Orchard area that did not encroach upon the roadway. Dan said "they would not with Town authorization". Dan encouraged getting Public Safety (Branford Police) approval.
- Spoke with Janice Plaziak, Branford Town Engineer, regarding the process for Town approval. Janice identified the Board of Selectmen as Charter authorized body for sidewalk requests.
 - Janice recommended residents who will be fronting on the sidewalk be notified before approval is granted.
 - An A-2 survey showing the location of the sidewalks will be required before a building permit will be issued.
 - Janice had no issue with sidewalks in the Pine Orchard area.

Scope

- Peter recommended we cost out activities required for a successful installation (possible engineering, permits and construction). Unanimous agreement.
- Rick recommended we focus on the area as authorized (Along Pine Orchard Road-Route 146 from the intersection with Elizabeth Street to Pine Orchard Road's intersection with Blackstone) with the possible inclusion of possible future additional sidewalks. These possible additions include; (1) Spring Rock Road to Yowago Avenue, (2) Blackstone to Club Parkway, (3) Blackstone north to Young's Pond Park and (4) Birch Road to the Linear Trail entrance adjacent to the POA building on Pine Orchard Road. Unanimous agreement.
- Materials were discussed with unanimous agreement for using only concrete.
- Do we look at the costs of at least installing conduit along sidewalks as they are constructed for the possible future replacement of the overhead Eversource street lamps with "Globe" type lighting. Unanimous agreement.
- What side (north or south) of Pine Orchard Road should the sidewalks be constructed on for the initial installation (along Pine Orchard Road between Elizabeth Street and Blackstone Avenue. No decision as overall plan, cost, existing utility pole/fire hydrant/pillar locations and municipal input will be significant contributing factors.

Financial (only the initial segment)

- Informal survey costs for "north and south" to be acquired by Mike Hopkins. Criscuolo Engineering to provide 203-481-0807.
- Informal sidewalk costs for "north and south" to be acquired by Rick Ross. Blue Ribbon Construction Company 203-483-0773.
- Approvals/Permit costs to be acquired by Peter Hugret.

- Communications to adjacent property holders regarding “north/south” preference-Edward Perez and Bobby Massey.

Recommendations

- Ongoing maintenance/liability to be either the Town’s or POA
- POA Executive Board to approve a phased approach and communicate to all POA residents

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM. Next meeting is to be scheduled for late in June.

Subsequent to the meeting Peter met with Jamie Cosgrove, Branford 1st Selectman, to make him aware of the Pine Orchard initiative to consider sidewalks. No agreement was asked for relating to who pays and if shared what percentage between the POA and Town. Jamie did say that if approved by the POA Board and Selectmen, once installed the Town will take maintenance responsibility with the exclusion of plowing/shoveling. Jamie pointed out that while the Town does plow “Branford Center”, they do not do neighborhoods such as Stony Creek (Stony Creek Association pays for sidewalk plowing). Liability was briefly discussed with no resolution as the owners of the areas where sidewalks could be installed has yet to be determined (State, Town and/or property owner).

The next meeting of the “Sidewalk Committee” is planned to be toward the end of June.