

**Prospect Sidewalk Task Force
Regular Meeting
Unapproved Minutes
February 8, 2016**

Meeting started at 3:05 P.M. The meeting was held in the large conference room, Prospect Town Hall, 36 Center Street.

Members Present: Carla M. Perugini-Erickson, Robert Chatfield, Jack Crumb.

Members Absent: Jeffrey Holley, Ron Laone

Guests: R. Don Nolte, Assistant Town Engineer, Cheshire Dept. of Public Works
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Discussion:

After reciting the pledge, Mayor Bob introduced Don Nolte, who distributed copies of the Town of Cheshire Guidelines and Specifications for Public Improvements.

Discussion ensued regarding specifications of the sidewalks in Cheshire. Mr. Nolte advised that the Town of Cheshire specifications for sidewalks are contained in the Town of Cheshire Guidelines and Specifications for Public Improvements. Their sidewalks are 4 ft. wide, 5 inches thick, and they have expansion joints every 16 feet as opposed to every 20 feet. They are scored every 4 ft. whereas other towns score their sidewalks every 5 feet. Mr. Nolte advised the scoring helps protect against surface cracks. The sidewalks are laid over 6 inches of gravel base.

Cheshire has 107 miles of sidewalks in town, privately owned by Cheshire, and this does not include sidewalks on state roads. There is a total of 153 miles on sidewalk on Cheshire roads. For the sidewalks on state roads, the State of CT accepted the Town of Cheshire's specifications, and the state never came to inspect their sidewalks.

Cheshire has an ordinance which provides that sidewalks must be cleared of snow and ice within 24 hours of a snow storm. 98% of the time there is compliance. Only rarely does the Town have to perform any clearing on the sidewalks. The ordinance is enforced by the Cheshire Police Department.

The Town of Cheshire received several STEAP Grants to install and/or improve sidewalks. The sidewalk scape that runs in front of Rossini Pizza was built with 3 different STEAP Grants totaling \$1 million. Cheshire put out an RFP to hire a design firm for those sidewalks. The design costs are born by the Town, as the grants do not cover these costs. Cheshire's costs were approximately \$350,000.00 for design costs. Mr. Nolte will email us the RFP for our review. As far as RFP results, Cheshire has been pleased with Anchor Engineering out of Glastonbury, as their bid came in the cheapest by

far, and they have landscape architects on board. Cheshire installed 1600 feet of sidewalks and 815 feet of retaining walls with that project.

Cheshire also recently received another \$500,000 STEAP Grant for additional sidewalks on West Main Street from Maple to Grove Street. Mr. Nolte advised the new sidewalks they will be installing will be 42 inches wide, because the 4 ft. sidewalks are too narrow.

Regarding the material for the sidewalks, Mr. Nolte discussed poured concrete vs. asphalt with pavers. He advised the town is not happy with the pavers because they fade, and they need to be seal-coated. Another option is stamped concrete or colored concrete. Mr. Nolte advised Cheshire was particularly happy with the clay pavers, which are old-fashioned bricks, because they can handle 20,000 PSI strength, whereas concrete can only handle 7500 PSI strength. For the clay pavers, Cheshire used Belden brick in their historic area, which runs in front of Cheshire Academy to the Town Hall. The costs for that were \$15 SQ FT, which was applied on a concrete base, and the poly sand is effective in keeping the bricks in place and keeping weeds out. Mr. Nolte does not recommend asphalt sidewalks. It heaves and is a problem especially with tree roots. Cheshire does not allow trees within the town right of way. As far as curbing, concrete is the standard for Cheshire, but granite would be the best choice, as it can take a beating.

When installing sidewalks, Cheshire provides the truck for removal of the demolition, gravel underneath, traffic control, they haul the demo out, and they buy the concrete at the state rate. This provides significant savings. Cheshire sidewalk installation costs approximately \$5.25 SQ FT. For towns that do not cover those excavation costs like Cheshire does, it would cost approximately \$12.00 SQ FT for poured concrete sidewalks. Cheshire's cost is significantly cheaper because they assist with trucking costs, gravel and concrete costs.

Mr. Nolte advised that Jerry Sitko of Cheshire Economic Development and Joe Michaelangelo of Town of Cheshire did the legwork for the easements that were required for the sidewalks. Mayor will invite Jerry Sitko to our next meeting. Mr. Nolte advised the process for easements is when you get the plan, meet with the property owners, should have a determination of the minimum value of the land that will be subject of the easement, which is generally never more than \$1,000.00, but most people just sign off on the easement without any compensation. There might be a need for grading easements as well. In Cheshire, if the town takes down any vegetation as part of the installation, they agree to replace it for the land owners. Occasionally, they have to repave driveways to get the proper grade.

For subdivisions, Cheshire P&Z requires sidewalks on both sides of the street, but sometimes developers ask for a waiver and request sidewalks on one side only. Mayor has spoken with Gil Graveline about the process for adding sidewalks to Prospect's P&Z subdivision regulations, and the sidewalk task committee is contemplating preparing a package for submission to P&Z towards that end. Cheshire's subdivision regulations are contained within their P&Z regulations.

Cheshire's STEAP Grants covered the costs of their street lighting and their benches.

Cheshire code does require sidewalks go through driveways, but Mr. Nolte suggests we avoid that, because then the town has to maintain the aprons on them.

Regarding businesses and parking, in Cheshire, their sidewalks are 5 feet of the edge of the road for both commercial and town roads. If a telephone pole needs to be moved, it is generally done for free if it is a town project. There may be DOT compliance required for audible crosswalks.

We thanked Mr. Nolte for sharing his wealth of knowledge on sidewalks, and he then left the meeting.

Vote was taken on the minutes of the 12/28/2016 meeting. Approved unanimous.

No action taken on the 12/9/2016 minutes as updated minutes were prepared. They will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR 2/23/2016 at 3:00 Town Hall – Guest will be Jerry Sitko, Cheshire Economic Development Commission

Meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Attachments:

1. Town of Cheshire Guidelines and Specifications for Public Improvements, Listing of comparable prices for installation of concrete sidewalks and **NEW GRANT AVAILABLE FOR SIDEWALKS – COMMUNITY CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM** (provided by Mr. Nolte)
2. Subdivision and Other Land Use Regulations, Guidelines (provided by Jeff Holley)

Submitted by:

Carla M. Perugini-Erickson