

Minutes of the Meeting of the Schuylerville Village Committee on Sidewalks July, 28 2017 at The Meeting Room of the Village Hall.

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 am by Trustee Bryan Drew, Chair

In attendance: Meg Phalen and Dave Roberts

The Chairman reported that several people had contacted him expressing their regrets at being unable to attend a meeting during daytime hours. He said that they had expressed a desire to participate in the activities of the committee when they are scheduled at other times.

Bryan reported that Wendy Lucas called to describe a system in place in Ithaca NY wherein each property owner is charged a specific sum annually if there is a public sidewalk on their property. He said he believed that the fee was \$70 for homeowners, and \$140 for commercial properties. Funds thusly raised are used to pay municipal crews to do sidewalk repair, re-installation and general maintenance.

There was discussion about what the responsibilities of the property owners actually is toward the maintenance of sidewalks under Village ordinances and any other applicable statutes. The Chairman decided to appoint a sub-committee to investigate those questions and said he will ask Ms. Lucas to chair it.

Dave Roberts described the experience of a program that was sponsored by Chamber of Commerce 10 years ago which included a sharing of responsibilities among various parties for replacement of sidewalks on Broad Street. The participants included: The Village crew which removed deteriorated concrete materials using municipal equipment; the property owner who arranged for the preparation of the cleared spaces to receive new material; donated concrete from Palette Stone arranged by the Chamber; and the placement of same organized by the property owner.

- The advantages of such a program included: the leveraging of scarce public funds for sidewalk work; The increased willingness of property owners to invest a share in new sidewalks; the ability to mobilize volunteer labor; and the mobilization of "good will" contributions from vendors and suppliers.
- There were several serious downsides: There was no ability to enforce quality control over the process and naïve property owners or volunteers installed materials which has subsequently failed.
- It was decided to request an opinion from Gil Albert, the building inspector, as to what the proper specification (eg: thickness, re-enforcing, control joints, etc.) would be for a properly installed sidewalk in the Village for the use of volunteer crews. The Chair will send a letter.
- The possibility of hiring a "flatwork" mason with experience in placing sidewalk materials would be explored. Dave Roberts will follow up with a local lead.
- The Chair agreed to reach out to various contacts to request volunteers who would help with the preparation of the beds for sidewalks and placement of forms and other needed separations, etc.
- The Chair agreed to contact Billy Lloyd of the Village of Victory DPW to inquire as to the possibility of using their municipally owned sidewalk forms.

The Chair suggested that we begin to "inventory" specific problem spots in the Village sidewalk system to create an "inventory" of places needing attention and that such spots be prioritized for action by committee volunteers. He announced that he would begin to "tour" the Village sidewalks on Saturday July 29<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 PM beginning at the Village hall and proceeding to Pearl Street North to South.

The Meeting was adjourned at 11:37 AM