

Village of Hiram

Sidewalks Committee Meeting Minutes December 20, 2016

Call to Order: Chairman Tom Wadkins called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

Committee Members Present: Tom Wadkins, Chairman
David Smith, Councilman
Paul Spencer, Councilman
Lou Bertrand, Mayor
Ed Frato-Sweeney, Hiram College Representative

Hiram Officials Present: James McGee, Village Administrator
Susan Skrovan, Fiscal Officer

Others:

Agenda: A motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Mr. Spencer with a second from Mr. Smith. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes: None were presented at this time.

Guests/Public:

Old Business: Committee members discussed what the Village's responsibilities are; we have 8,000 linear feet of sidewalks. James, our Village Administrator, has been working on a mechanism to perform a survey of our existing sidewalks to determine their condition. James would also have an engineer involved. Paul said the property owners are responsible for the maintenance and care of their sidewalks. We have a codified ordinance on the books now that we are not enforcing. At what point is the Village liable?


The committee needs to review our codified ordinance and determine if it should be amended or removed. Tom Wadkins would be willing to "share" the costs across the entire Village to improve our sidewalks. Ed Frato-Sweeney noted that Hiram College is very interested in the upkeep and repairs of the sidewalks. It is a shared resource.

Mayor Bertrand felt the least painful would be a small, say 1 mill levy, based on the assessed value of properties. The College property is valued at eleven million! The committee may want to do a survey from residents to see what they would be willing to do. Ed Frato-Sweeney asked if there were any grants available for repairs and/or maintenance of sidewalks, even for ADA. Dave Smith said Cuyahoga Falls uses the ADA updates to make improvements to their sidewalks at intersections, etc. Paul Spencer would like to step back and do the assessments first, find out the real costs for repairs; we may be making a big deal over nothing. Tom Wadkins felt the community would be very receptive to this idea.

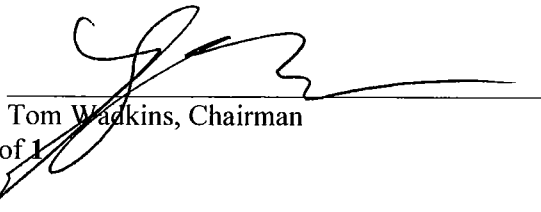
The next Sidewalks Committee meeting will be Tuesday, February 28, 2017 following Finance/Safety.

Adjournment: A Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mayor Bertrand with a second by Mr. Spencer. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm

Respectfully Submitted by:


Susan J. Skrovan, Fiscal Officer

Attest:


Tom Wadkins, Chairman