



# TOWN OF SALEM, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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## SIDEWALK COMMITTEE

### **Background**

As noted in the initial charge from the Board of Selectmen's June 13, 2016 meeting, the Town of Salem has developed an extensive sidewalk network throughout the town. The cost to maintain, reconstruct, and/or resurface these sidewalks will be substantial. In many cases, sidewalk rehabilitation is expected to be as much money as roadwork. The Board of Selectmen seeks to align the maintenance and reconstruction of sidewalks with the 10-year road program and the Planning Board's Sidewalk Master Plan. In as much as the sidewalk maintenance will require a substantial monetary investment, the Board of Selectmen created this committee to assist in determining a definitive list of which sidewalks should be maintained, eliminated and/or extended.

### **Committee Charter**

The Board of Selectmen charged the sidewalk committee to review and assess Salem's current sidewalk inventory and to present the Board of Selectmen with a recommendation that specifically addresses the following areas:

Identify sidewalks in key walking areas (town center district, etc.) which have disconnections or gaps in the sidewalk connections

Identify which sidewalks the committee would recommend eliminating when its associated roadway is reconstructed or paved.

Identify which new sidewalks (if any) should be constructed

The committee's final work product should be:

- 1) A list of Side Walks that should be constructed to compliment and complete the final town wide system.
- 2) A map of the proposed "new" sidewalk system which would delineate which sidewalks should be added and which should be phased out at next opportune reconstruction of the accompanying road.

The composition of this committee was as follows:

- 2 Planning Board Members – Linda Harvey (Vice Chairman) and Paul Pelletier
- Budget Committee Member – Paul Huard
- Selectman – Mike Lyons (Secretary)
- School Board Representative – Pamela Berry
- Town Staff – Chris Dillon (Chairman)

**Report:**

The sidewalk Committee held an organizational meeting on September 8<sup>th</sup>. This meeting was used to elect officers, go over the purpose of the committee, and to discuss the timeline and goals.

It is the Sidewalk Committee's recommendation that the sidewalks listed in this plan be addressed when the roads abutting them are reconstructed. If the recommendation is to remove, bring up to ADA Standards, or to extend the sidewalk, this should be part of the road reconstruction planning process.

While reviewing the need for a plan for the sidewalks in Salem, the group came to a general consensus similar to the Planning Board's Master Plan for sidewalks.

1. If no sidewalk exists, they should be added along major roadways in highly developed areas with significant traffic volumes.
2. We should provide access to public buildings, parks, recreational areas, and around the schools.
3. Our Main Street/Route 97 through town should have a sidewalk on both sides of the Road from N/S Policy Streets to the cemetery/North Main Street split.
  - a. Other than Main Street, review necessity of sidewalks on both sides of the street.
4. Route 28 should have a complete sidewalk on the Eastern side from Methuen to Windham
5. We need to close gaps in the existing sidewalk system.
6. Sidewalks should be added to provide access to major destinations.
7. Review the current system in relation to higher density residential development including senior housing, and apartments to ensure they have access to the larger sidewalk network.

Although some would like sidewalks along every road, due to lack of right-of-ways, cost of maintenance, and cost of construction, the committee is focused on the criteria listed above and is recommending the removal of sidewalks from smaller neighborhoods but proposing larger lanes be constructed and marked for bicycles.

**Discontinued Sidewalks**

The list of sidewalks the committee is recommending to remove should not occur as a separate project, but factored into the plans when reconstructing the abutting road. Also, the committee is recommending constructing wider roads in these areas for bike lanes to ensure those in the neighborhoods keep some of their existing protections. We would further recommend a public hearing and notify any abutters in the areas we recommend discontinuing prior to removal of the sidewalks as they may bring additional information to light.

1. Adam Ct
2. Becky Drive
3. Bridge Street – West Side
4. Brimstone Lane
5. Canterbury Court
6. Chestnut St
7. Elmwood Ave
8. Emileo Lane
9. Equestrian Road
10. Flintlock Road
11. Fraser Street - the section on the east side in front of only two homes
12. Hemlock Lane
13. Hunters Run
14. Jana Road

15. Kayla Ave
16. Kelly Road – Only on one side of the road – Staff Recommendation for which side
17. Kim Road
18. Meredith Road
19. Nathans Way
20. Nirvana Drive
21. Remington Road
22. Route 28 – remove the side walk on the West side of the road South of the intersection of 97 and Route 28
23. Stone Post Road
24. Sullivan Ave
25. Waldron Road
26. Wesley Lane
27. Wheeler Dam Road
28. Woodmeadow Drive

### **New Sidewalks**

The committee is proposing adding sidewalks to connect broken links, add them in highly traveled areas, and to provide better access to many large features in town. These recommendations are solely those of this committee and we recommend the Board of Selectmen and Planning Board meet to discuss the recommendations and modify as they [Board of Selectmen and Planning] see appropriate.

1. Stiles Road – from existing sidewalk to Lowell Road
2. Lowell Road – from Stiles Road to South Policy
3. Pelham Road – from Stiles Road to Bailey Road
4. Mall Road – from existing sidewalk to Rockingham Park Boulevard
5. Rockingham Park Boulevard – from Mall Road to Route 28
6. Route 28 – from Cluff to Veteran's Memorial
7. Route 28 – from Dyer Road to Shadow Lake Road
8. Lawrence Road – from Town Village to the new Senior Development
9. Butler Street – from Lawrence Road to existing sidewalk by Tyler Street
10. Butler Street – from existing sidewalk to the State Line
11. Veterans Memorial – from Geremonty Drive to Lawrence Road (North Side)
12. Veterans Memorial – from existing around the corner to existing on Route 28 (North)
13. Veterans Memorial – from Braemore to Route 28 (South Side)
14. Cluff Road – extend existing to the connection of the Braemore Woods Trail
15. Meisner – from Geremonty Ext. to School Street
16. Main Street – from Canterbury Court to Lawrence on South Side of the Road
17. School Street – from Stonepost to Millville Street
18. Millville Street – from existing by Scotland Ave up to Bluff Street
19. Pleasant Street – South Policy to the rear entrance of the mall (by the food court)

### **Closed Loops**

If the recommendations of this report are completed, there will be complete loops around Geremonty, to Veterans, to Main, back to Geremonty. We will also have access from the network to Hedgehog Park which removes a “stub”/dead end on Stiles Road. Finally, between the rail trail and the sidewalk on Route 28 people will be able to go from Methuen to Windham on both sides of Route 28.