

**BOROUGH OF NEWTOWN  
NEWTOWN, CONNECTICUT**

Minutes of the special meeting of the Borough of Newtown Board of Burgesses on **Thursday, March 5, 2020** in the Alexandria Room at Edmond Town Hall, Newtown, CT. Warden Maher called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

**Present:** Warden Jay Maher, Senior Burgess Chris Gardner, Second Senior Burgess Betsy Kenyon, Burgess Anthony Baiad, Burgess Bill Eder, Burgess Jim Gaston, Lynne Farrah and Charles Zukowski.

**Absent:** Burgess Bill Lucas, Tax Collector Jodie Enriquez, Treasurer Paula Brinkman, Tree Warden Rob McCulloch, Auditor Glenn Nanavaty, Zoning Officer Rob Sibley and Clerk Ann Scaia

**Also Present:** 15 members of the public.

**Introduction:**

Warden Jay Maher introduced the five (5) members of the Ad Hoc Sidewalk Committee, and the other three (3) Burgesses in attendance.

**The Minutes for the February 12, 2020 Meeting** of the Ad Hoc Sidewalk Committee require a correction to reflect that the proposed sidewalk identified as Queen Street Extension A should be listed as on the East side of Queen Street.

**Background:**

Warden Maher gave a brief history of sidewalks in the Borough, explaining that only \$10,000 - \$20,000 has been budgeted annually for installation and renovation of sidewalks. Main Street sidewalks are almost completed to goal. The yearly budgeted amount allows only for relatively small projects, and the "price tag" for one potential new area alone tops \$150,000. Over many years, residents have approached the Board for construction of additional sidewalks; and the annual budgeted amount will not cover the cost. The Ad Hoc Sidewalk Committee was formed to entertain the value of additional sidewalk construction. The Borough has received over \$250,000 in Building Fees over the past five (5) years, and the General Fund currently has a large pool of funds.

Warden Maher told the attendees that the Committee looked at all possible locations, initially identifying sixteen (16) potential projects and prioritizing them using a defined set of criteria. He then turned the meeting over to Charles Zukowski to define and provide detail on the Committee's sixteen identified projects.

**Area's Considered/Maps:**

Charles Zukowski gave a detailed presentation of the sixteen identified projects using a slide presentation (attached), which illustrated existing and proposed sidewalk areas by superimposing them onto a map of the Borough in different colors to delineate one from the other. He noted that the list can be expanded in the future. The proposed projects are listed as #1 through #13,

because three (3) of the projects are divided into Parts A and B, totaling sixteen (16) individual projects. The projects are defined as follows: 1.) Citgo Gap; 2.) Currituck Connector; 3.) Sugar Street Extensions A & B; 4.) Queen Street Entrance A & B; 5.) Pleasance Gap; 6.) Boulevard Branch; 7.) Queen Street Extension A & B; 8.) Johnnie Cake Link; 9.) Post Office Shortcut; 10.) West Street Hedge Bypass; 11.) Dickinson Park Access; 12.) Firehouse Gap; and 13.) Reservoir Extension. Mr. Zukowski identified specific landmarks defining each stretch of proposed sidewalk, and described specific important factors and challenges inherent in each of the individual projects.

#### **Decision Matrix Presentation:**

Burgess Chris Gardner described how the Committee arrived at what value a particular project has, by using a specific set of criteria, and how the Committee ranked the projects using the average of total scores on the Committee's Decision Matrix (attached): The higher the score, the more important the project was to do. The specific criteria were: 1.) Construction Cost; 2.) Maintenance Cost; 3.) Environmental Impact; 4.) Aesthetic Impact; 5.) Number of Users; 6.) Safety per User; 7.) Convenience per User; and 8.) Avoid wait for alternate funding (may be able to push the project off and seek alternate funding).

Using these criteria, three projects topped the list as highest in priority, as follows: 1.) Queen Street Entrance A; 2.) Sugar Street Extension A & B; 3.) Queen Street Entrance B & Queen Street Extension A. Burgess Gardner provided additional detail on the rankings.

#### **Financial Considerations:**

Warden Jay Maher explained that the Borough is not capable of bonding or applying for grants. The Borough does work closely with Land Use. The next step is to go before the Board of Burgesses and request funding. The Committee has talked about \$100,000 toward capital improvement as "not out of line" as a possible target figure to request.

#### **Public Participation:**

Several local residents posed questions to the Committee on issues of cost, realistic timelines for completion, and possible town and state involvement with regard to both funding and approvals.

**There being no further business, Warden Maher made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 p.m.,** seconded by Burgess Bill Eder and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jackie zVon  
Substitute Clerk

Attachment:  
Borough of Newtown  
Sidewalk Committee Report  
March 5, 2020

# BOROUGH OF NEWTOWN SIDEWALK COMMITTEE REPORT

March 5, 2020

# Committee Members

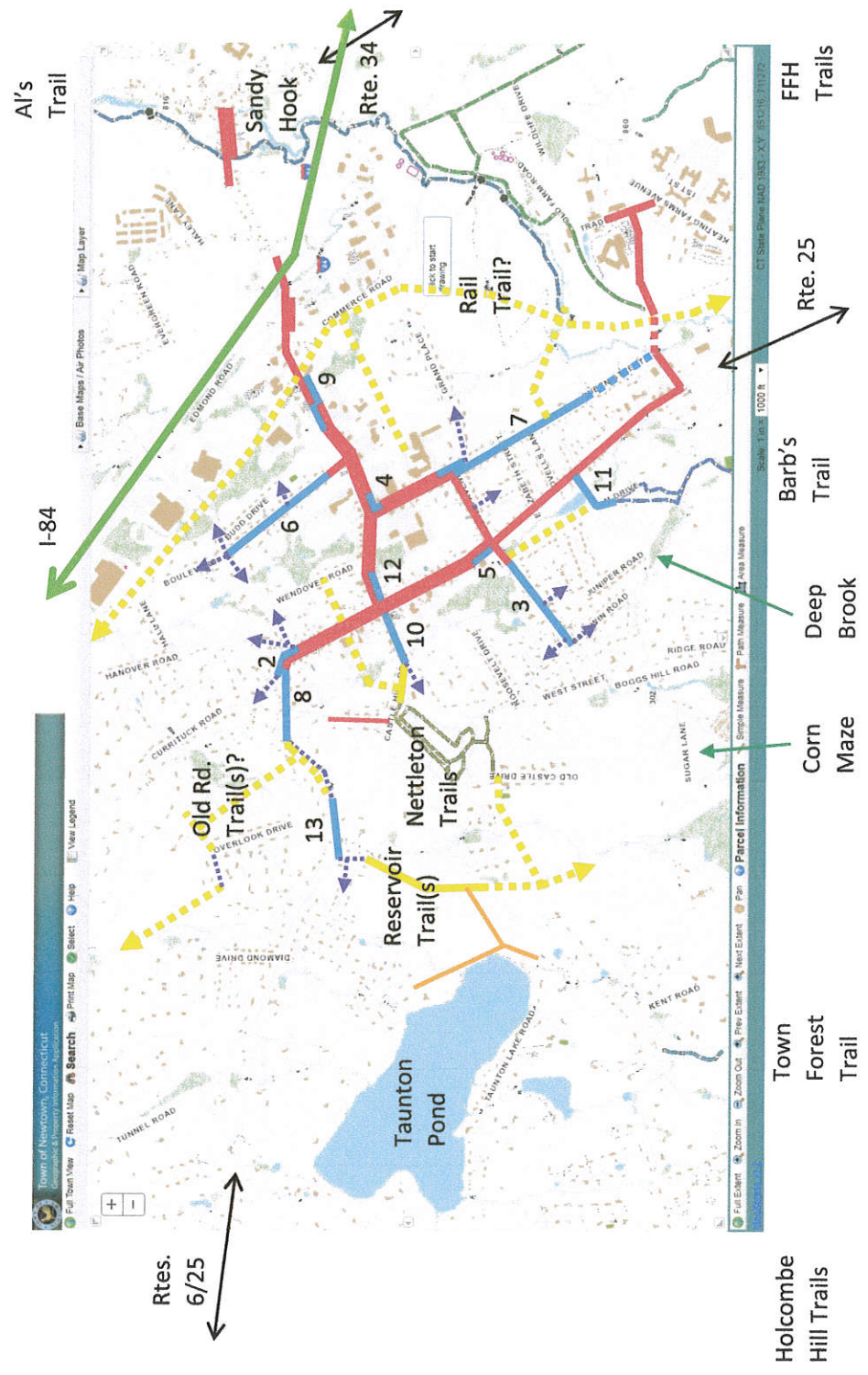
- Warden Jay Maher
- Senior Burgess Chris Gardner
- Burgess Bill Eder
- Resident Lynne Farah
- Resident Charles Zukowski

# Overview (JM & BE)

- Recent History of Borough Sidewalks
- Creation of Ad Hoc Committee
- Objective
- Funding
- Future

# Public Presentation

- Candidate Projects (CZ)
- Decision Matrix (CG)
- Public Discussion (JM)









3A



7A



[illegible]

Preliminary Averages, 2/12		Construction Cost		Maintenance Cost		Environmental Impact		Aesthetic Impact		TOTAL COST		Number of Users		Safety per User		Convenience per User		Avoid wait for alternative funding		TOTAL BENEFIT		AVG TOTAL SCORE		SIGMA RANK	
		5	2	3	3	3	3	4	5	4	5	4	5	4	5	4	5	4	5	4	5	4	5	4	5
criterion weight																									
1 CITGO GAP		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			100	9		
2 CURRITUCK CONNECTOR		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			101	7		
3 SUGAR ST. EXTENSION - A		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			120	10	2	
SUGAR ST. EXTENSION - B		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			121	13	2	
4 QUEEN ST. ENTRANCE - A		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			129	11	1	
QUEEN ST. ENTRANCE - B		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			113	16	3	
5 PLEASANCE GAP		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			97	7		
6 BOULEVARD BRANCH		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			88	13		
7 QUEEN ST. EXTENSION - A		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			113	12	3	
QUEEN ST. EXTENSION - B		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			96	9		
8 JOHNNIE CAKE LINK		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			94	8		
9 POST OFFICE SHORTCUT		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			76	18		
10 WEST ST. HEDGE BYPASS		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			101	17		
11 DICKINSON PARK ACCESS		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			95	8		
12 FIREHOUSE GAP		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			72	21		
13 RESERVOIR EXTENSION		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			97	10		

# Public Discussion

Thanks for Participating