

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING: JUNE 22, 2021

WRITTEN TESTIMONY: PUBLIC INFORMATION HEARING NO. 1

PROPOSED PHASE III CONSTRUCTION OF SIDEWALKS ALONG MAIN STREET/ROUTE 17 BETWEEN THE CIDER MILL AND RED HILL DRIVE – REVIEW OF PROJECT CONCEPT DESIGN OPTIONS.

First Name	Last Name	Street Address	Written Testimony: Per Council rules & procedures, testimony at public hearings is limited to 5 minutes. Please limit your written testimony to what can be reasonably read to the record of the public hearing in 5 minutes.
Andrew	Miller	1245 Hebron Ave	<p>My wife and I have owned and restored the 1796 colonial house at 1213 Main St since 1986. We have several concerns about this project. First and foremost, we don't want any damage done to the 100+ year old sugar maple tree at the corner of our property. We also have concerns about how a pre-fab stone retaining wall would look. How high would it be and would a fence then be needed? We find the retaining wall now completed further south with the top cap overhang over the wall, not very attractive. I know based on the time I spent with the snow removal at my Hebron Avenue home, sanding and salting to maintain it safely, that I spent about 12-18 hours a year, depending on the snow amount. With that all said, we would support the sidewalk project, if only based on the community support it appears to have. I just don't think that the owners on the west side should be the only one making a sacrifice to this project since we will have to maintain the sidewalk. The road should be shifted over as detailed in Option 2 or 4. No one wants land in front of their homes removed, but why should that only happen to the owners on the West side?</p>
Jeffrey	Stein	142 Olde Stage Rd.	<p>On behalf of BikeWalk Glastonbury I wish to reiterate our group's support for this important sidewalk project. When completed, this link along Main Street will provide a safe route for pedestrians and cyclists between the central business district/nearby residential areas and South Glastonbury center. While we appreciate the topography has presented challenges, we hope the Council will choose and fund a plan which would allow for 2022 construction. As an individual citizen, I feel Option 4 is the best proposal to address stability of the slope and limit the easterly movement of the roadway.</p>
Kathleen	Kaye	1241 Main Street	<p>At the Town Council Meeting of 5/25/21, discussion of a sidewalk in front of 1241 Main Street, I was pleased to hear that the Town is not in favor of cutting into the slope. My concern is that it could become a fatal situation to passersby if the trees' roots were compromised thereby causing the trees to fall. The property at 1241 at one time had a driveway with a retaining wall directly from Main Street to the house, but the retaining wall failed years ago and hasn't been used since. A Town official told me that there was probably no chance of repairing and reusing that driveway because of the sand and gravel composition, but also because of limited line of sight at the street. I'm concerned that a raised sidewalk will also reduce line of sight when exiting the shared driveway onto the state highway. Traffic typically travels faster than the speed limit through this area, making it difficult to exit the driveway, and the sidewalk could potentially exacerbate the problem. I would like the Town to consider this line of sight safety issue in their design. For winter maintenance, there is no direct or easy access from 1241 to the proposed sidewalk. Having to maintain a sidewalk would cause extreme difficulty as I would have to walk down a five-home shared driveway after it is cleared, to get to the street and sidewalk. I would then have to walk past two houses to get to the sidewalk in front of my house before I could clear snow, and of course only if my two neighbors have already cleared their sidewalks. I won't be able to see the condition of the sidewalk from my house because of the angle of the slope. I consider this to be an unreasonable as well as an unsafe situation on an unlit state highway. Since I believe the Town will be responsible for clearing the sidewalk in front of the Cider Mill, my request is that the Town continue sidewalk clearing past the properties of Dr. Beckett, as well as 1241, 1225, and 1213 Main Street. Thank you.</p>