

# TOWN OF HILL

## PUBLIC HEARING

September 21, 2021

**Selectmen Present:** Tom Seymour, Shaun Bresnahan, Christopher Gronski & Lisa Seymour  
(Administrative Assistant)

**Selectmen Absent:** None

**Public:** David Thomson, Thomas Angeley, Stephen Thomson, Mark Labonte, Nathan Mills, Lee Herterich, Robert Dupuis, Gerry Desrochers and Bill Wilson

Thomas Seymour brought the Public Hearing to order at 6:49 pm.

The public hearing was to discuss the proposal to remove 450 square feet of sidewalks on the north end of Mountain View Drive. The north end is toward the Maurice Wheeler Park. Stephen Thomson asked if the highway department would be doing the work? The Selectmen said yes, they would be doing the work and the time and supplies would be tracked and properly allocated. Stephen Thomson asked why it couldn't be done with volunteers and we could cover the cost of the diesel and coffee. David Thomson stated that he was going to do the sidewalks for free but so sure he is willing to do this now. Thomas Seymour recalled at the Townspeople could not decide what to do at the time David Thomson made his offer. Mark Labonte stated that he will take care of his own property he was not pleased that he had the mailbox area mowed by his house and it was a mess. Christopher Gronski said when he was growing up the resident clean them. Abutting owners cannot be held responsible for the maintenance of sidewalks – either financially or by requiring the abutter to work on the sidewalk RSA 231:113

Sidewalks are explicitly included in the selectmen's authority to regulate highways under RSA 41:11. The duty to repair and maintain sidewalks rests with highway agent under the direction of the local governing body RSA 231:113.

Bill Wilson said people and kids use to walk the sidewalks. The condition of the sidewalks is not safe to walk on so the people and kids now walk in the road. Bill Wilson asked what are the long-term plans? Shaun Bresnahan stated we should keep Crescent Street. Robert Dupuis asked how many trees would be removed and are we planning on replacing them? Shaun Bresnahan stated that the salt has damaged the trees and not sure if there is a tree that could with stand the salt.

Gerry Desrochers and Bill Wilson mention the warrant article that would raise funding to do the sidewalks. "At the 2019 town meeting under Article 9: To see if the Town will vote to establish a Sidewalk Expendable Trust Fund per RSA 31:19 – a for the removal, repair, and/or replace the sidewalks in the village and raise and appropriate \$25,000 to put in the fund, with this amount to come from general taxation; further to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. Recommendations Required. Majority vote required. (Petition Warrant Article) Recommended by the Selectmen and Budget Committee. At the Town Meeting there was open discussion, Selectman, Thomas Seymour, explained that the sidewalks are a liability issue for the town and they need to addressed. A great deal of discussion surrounded this article from many in the audience. Many questioned what the plan would be; is there a plan? Some suggested the sidewalks be removed and loamed over. Others wanted to see them restored. Mr. Bill Wilson explained that he created this petition warrant article as nothing has been done to the sidewalks since he moved to town over 40 years ago. Jerry Desrochers explained original thought was to start a capital reserve fund to begin the process and the plan would be determined along the way be the selectmen. After lengthy discussion the question was called. The motion passed."

This Capital Reserve was to have an 80% grant said Gerry Desrochers. Gerry also stated that the town has really gone downhill. Thomas Seymour state that the law has changed and the sidewalks are an extension of the town roads. A question was asked can the sidewalks be classified as

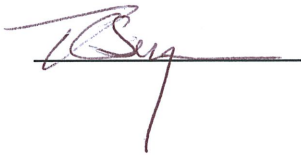


historic. Stephen Thomson asked what is the deciding factor to remove the sidewalks? Christopher Gronski also asked what generated the sidewalks to be removed. It's the maintenance of them because they need to be plowed in the winter and we have no means to do that. Stephen Thomson said it makes more sense to pull them as it's not economical to have them. Another concern was the waterlines. Gerry Desrochers said that if there is a water main break the Water Department pays for it and it doesn't come taxpayers' dollars. Stephen Thomson said this town is split you have the Mountain that have bad roads and the Village has sidewalks that need to be removed and the concern for the waterlines. Again, Bill Wilson stated this is a walking town and right now you can't walk on them because they are not safe and the road is not the place to be walking either. Robert Dupuis asked if there is anyway to save these trees maybe with a ban. Because we have Sugar Maples that need to be replace. Shaun Bresnahan stated it's the salt the kills these trees. The Public Hearing closed at 7:19 and the Selectmen will make a decision at the schedule meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Seymour

Tom Seymour, Chair



Shaun Bresnahan



Christopher Gronski

