

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN****STREET COMMITTEE MINUTES****Tuesday, June 3, 2008****Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance**

Alderman Olin called the Street Committee meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
All those present rose and pledged allegiance to the flag.

ROLL CALL

Alderman Ken Olin, Chairman – present
Alderman Stan Kudej – present
Alderman Lynne Farrell – present

Also Present: William Mooney, Director of Highways & Bridges

PUBLIC PORTION

Anthony Simonetti, 6 Hayfield

Since this is the last meeting of the year for this committee I would like to discuss what streets you are going to work on. It's nice to make a list and you try to fix the list. I know that sometimes you get stuck with big projects, something breaks and you can't finish them all. Sometime in the next 30 – 60 days could there be a list given out, prepared so that we can have an idea where they are going to be working, what streets are going to be repaired this year so that if someone asks what streets are being repaired, we know. If possible list if you are doing curb to curb, amour coating, walkway so that I have an idea of what is going on when people ask me the question. Thank you very much.

Eric McPherson, 72 Wheeler St.

I sent you the letter with the eleven pictures on Wheeler. There is a number of issues with that road as you can see in there. Everything from the lower half where I think the storm drain coverage is just out dated. We get a lot of debris that washes down there. I know you've seen it. I know Alderman Kudej is familiar with it. That is an issue there.

There are some other issues too. From the senior center to the end of Wheeler, Mr. Kulacz was up last week taking measurements, and I had mentioned to him

at that time, between the Senior Center and where the Police station is you have this real curve. That is an issue too. I think it's also a safety issue. My own brother was broad sided by somebody coming our of the Senior Center and I think that curve has a lot to do with it. I think it is misleading. I asked him if he would be able to cut that curb back? He took his map out, looked at it and made some notes and indicated to me that it didn't seem to be a problem to cut that back.

The other issue is that when the Senior Center has big events up there, the lot fills. The over flow comes onto Wheeler Street and they are parking on both sides of the road. The road is narrow as it is and maybe that particular part of the road can be widened a little bit? You have some room on across the street on the other side. It's bad, the police have complained about it, I've talked to a lot of people on the street, we have people in there eighties who are still driving, families with children. The road is just a disaster. It's been that way for a number of years. The problem here is that when Howe Ave, north of Wheeler has to be shut down, a good point was last year when they had that nasty accident, Wheeler St. is the only direct connection between Howe Ave. and Meadow St. The road is heavily traveled already. It is not a safe road. If you look at the pictures the road is just decayed, there are issues with the storm drains, the rain washes the debris down and the drains clog. A lot of the debris washes out into Howe Ave. I saw a state truck cleaning it up. The road needs a lot of work and needs to be updated.

Alderman Olin replied that he thought this road was on the list to have some work done. He will check with the Mayor and get back to him.

Mr. McPherson continued; I would like to see if there is a possibility of, is maybe on the side of where the Senior Center is, between there and the Police Dept. My concern is that we have children on the road, we have families with children, people like to walk up the street, I like too, but it's not safe. I would like to see if maybe we could do some sort of an asphalt sidewalk? There is room there; I would like to know why we couldn't. The road isn't safe. It's not safe for the families; it's not safe for the elderly people. It's a bad road. It's bad enough that I have to go to PH&S because we have a serious speeding issue on the road.

Mr. Mooney replied; I don't normally speak up at this time. It has nothing to do with road design. There is an old deteriorated sidewalk there that ended up being used for parking spaces by everybody that lived on that hill. The problems on that hill and street are no city highway problems, if we had some enforcement we'd probably have some traffic control. I am also going to thank this board, of which there is 4 here, for the money which has been given to us to do these jobs. There is not enough money to do all of Wheeler St.

Alderman Olin and Mr. Mooney continued the conversation with regard to the bonding of the roads.

Mr. McPherson continued; I will comment on your words. I have been working on that issue. I was on the board when we passed an ordinance, if you have a driveway, park in it; I know what you are saying because I see it everyday. I have called the police on at least 2 occasions. I am going to be coming to the PH&S because that is a part of the problem. You're right there was a sidewalk, I remember that as a kid. I am trying to deal with that issue too. But whatever can really be done to make the road safer, even with that curve between the Senior Center and the Police Station. There is a lot of feet that you can cut back off of that.

Mr. Mooney replied that it is all ledge in that area. We aren't going to design anything here tonight.

Mr. McPherson replied; I'm talking about the side by the senior center. I'm here to press the issue. I will continue to press the issue. That curve is a safety issue because the seniors misjudge it coming out of the center. If you don't believe me you can go up and see my brother's truck and see the \$3000 dent in his driver door. So I am going to press the issue and I am going to keep pressing the issue until something gets done about it. The other thing I have before I leave the committee, this might be a state issue. Coming up Shelton Ave. toward the High School, where the ravine is, it's been like that for 2 years. When is the state going to do something or who is going to contact the state? Are they waiting for the road to collapse there, it's a ravine, that sidewalk is falling apart, and there is only 2 cones on it? It's been like that for almost 2 years.

As the street committee can you contact the state to get them out here to work on that? The guard rail is bent, the asphalt is not completely filled in. Can we get them out here to do their job that we tax payers are paying them to do.

Thank you for your time.

Anthony Simonetti cont.

Mr. Mooney, I had an occasion to call your office 3 or 4 times for whatever reason, each time whether it was 2 am or 9 am they were very responsible. They told me what they would do, did what they said they would do. Thank you to your crew and pass it on please. We know that they are out there working.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

1. Regular Meeting – April 2, 2008

Alderman Kudej moved to recommend to the Full Board to waive the reading and accept the minutes of the April 2, 2008 regular Street Committee Meeting; Seconded by Alderman Farrell. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 3-0.

2. New Business

2.1 Wheeler Street Drainage Issues

No action was taken. This was discussed during the public portion. Alderman Kudej expressed his concerns on road repair. We need to prioritize road repairs in town.

Mr. Mooney stated that this is scheduled to be done this year.

2.2 Curbing at 12 William Street

Mr. Mooney will review and report back to the committee.

2.3 Kneen Street repaving

No action taken. Mr. Mooney reported that this was scheduled for an overlay within the next week.

2.4 Tuxedo . Harvard Ave. Repaving Request

Mr. Mooney will review and advise.

2.5 Hillside Ave.

Mr. Mooney will review and advise.

2.6 Reimbursement of replacement of sidewalk abutting 375 Coram Ave.

Alderman Kudej moved to forward to the full board per the recommendation of the City Engineer, to approve the sidewalk reimbursement of \$585.20 to Schlesinger & Barbara LLC of 375 Coram Ave., per ordinance No. 465 with funding to come from Engineering acct 001-3600-713.80-43; seconded by Alderman Farrell. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 3-0.

2.7 Sidewalk Reimbursement – 34 Sunnyside Drive

Alderman Kudej moved to forward to the full board per the recommendation of the City Engineer, to approve the sidewalk reimbursement of \$825.50 to William Woods of 34 Sunnyside Drive, per ordinance no. 465 with funding to come from the Engineering acct 001-3600-713.80-43; seconded by Alderman Farrell. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 3-0.

2.8 Street Tree Revitalization on Prospect Ave.

Letter to the Aldermen:

Dear Mr. Olin,

We met on April 1st and informally discussed some of the issues I have with streets, roads and the neighborhood. I noticed that the street committee later in the week so I sent this letter hoping to have my concerns added to the next agenda. When I bought my house some 20 years ago the street consisted of beautiful alley of large trees. There was a wonderful canopy of shade along the street. It was one of the reasons I chose this house over others. In subsequent years trees have been removed leaving only 2 of the 12 street trees. We are left with barren deserted streets exposing the ugliness of daily living beneath. Studies show that trees in public housing neighborhood's lower level of fear, contributes to less violent and aggressive behavior, encourages better neighbor relationships and better coping skills. Property values can increase as much as 20% when mature trees are present. These values are capitalized when property taxes are assessed a or when taxes are paid on property sales. In recent past I have invested nearly \$100,000 in repair and renovation in my property, including the renovation of the 1st floor residence, new roof, new driveway, and new landscaping. Other houses are also improved. It would be shameful if our work isn't for naught when the city allows a municipal infrastructure to deteriorate. Trees provide numerous benefits to the community and the ecology. Reduce air pollution by trapping particles in their leafy canopy's, reduce rain runoff, discharge to storm drains and extend the time that a watershed has to absorb the rainfall and reducing flooding and erosions. Reduce energy consumption and air temperature by 5 to 10 degrees and by extending heat and cooling costs. The older established neighborhoods in Shelton need attention. They need to be revitalized to join the prosperity similar to other area towns. I implore you to establish a plan to reestablish tree-lined streets in urban downtown neighborhoods.

Lori Liechenburg

The Alderman discussed this.

Alderman Kudej moved to forward this to the full board for further discussion; seconded by Alderman Farrell. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 3-0.

2.9 Sightline at Corner of Audobon and Coram Ave.

People can't see when pulling out onto Coram Ave.

Alderman Kudej moved to forward to the Chief of Police for review and recommendation; seconded by Alderman Farrell. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 3-0.

3. OLD BUSINESS

3.1 North Oak Ave. – Parking Issues

Alderman Olin read a response from the Chief of Police.

A review of the current conditions on North Oak Ave. was conducted. The parking is herringbone and accommodates a number of vehicles that result from a multifamily house present there. If the parking were changed to parallel parking there would be a significant reduction in the amount of parking available, that would probably not even accommodate single-family parking. The current situation with the road does not allow for widening either the road or parking.

Alderman Olin stated that he will revisit this with the Chief of Police.

3.2 Widening and Installation of Turn Around on Woonsocket Rd.

Alderman Olin asked the clerk to speak with P&Z regarding the 8-24 referral. No action taken.

3.3 Curb Replacement at 26 Rolling Ridge Update

Mr. Mooney replied that this has been scheduled.

Adjournment

Alderman Kudej moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 pm; seconded by Alderman York. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 3-0.

Respectively submitted,

Brigitte Plucienik

Brigitte Plucienik
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Date Submitted: _____

Date Approved: _____ BY: _____

Mayor Mark A. Laretti
City of Shelton