



BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
**S T R E E T C O M M I T T E E M E E T I N G**  
TUESDAY, JUNE 4, 2013  
AT SHELTON CITY HALL, ROOM 104  
54 HILL STREET, SHELTON, CT  
AT 6:00 P.M.

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## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Alderman McPherson on Tuesday, June 4, 2013 called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Aldermen Street Committee to order at 6:00 P.M. in Room 104, of Shelton City Hall and led the group in a pledge of allegiance to the flag.

### **Present**

Alderman McPherson, Chairman

Alderman Kudej

Alderman Farrell

### **Also Present**

Paul DiMauro

Judson Crawford

### ➤ **Public Portion**

Chairmen McPherson announced that there was a public portion. Those who are present please state your name and address for the record.

### **George Sender, 112 Perry Hill Road**

I am here in reference of two properties that I own on New Street. One was an issue when Roberts Street was paved. I own the property of 33-35 New Street. It is a corner lot; part of it is on New Street and part of it is on Roberts Street. The sidewalk that runs down the side, and for whatever

reason, the sidewalk only runs part of the way down the hill. When that was paved, the paver did two things: one thing was that they made wheelchair access of Robert and New, and then they curbed the road going down the side that is on the corner of New Street and on Roberts. As a result, the road probably is four inches higher than the sidewalk, and the people that did that paving simply dumped material, possibly dirt on the sidewalk and seeded part of it anyway. That is washing away and the original sidewalk is underneath that dirt, plus whatever dents are used as a walkway. I am here right now because the of plans to repave New Street, and I thought that in the process of ripping that up and doing whatever they are going to do, is to pave that little bit of sidewalk back to where it blends in with the curbing. It should be done; it should not be an issue that should be mine, as the landowner, because the problem was created when the road was repaved.

Alderman Kudej: Did anyone redo the corner of Roberts and New?

George Sender: No, and when I was here before, right after Roberts Street was paved, I brought in pictures of what the sidewalk looked like prior to and what it is now. You have it in your notes but nothing has been done with it, but I thought while they are paving three, I don't think it will take them a lot to pave that little bit and I would like to have that on record.

Paul DiMauro: I went out to look at it today and the sidewalk is at a different level, but that should not make a difference as far as the conditions of the sidewalk being the responsibility of the City. If there is an area between the sidewalk and the curb, and if it wasn't backed up properly, we will address that when they go down New Street, they will address the curbing there. That is a matter of putting soil there, or sod if it is on bank so it is stabilized and the grass will grow. As far as the sidewalk, quite honestly George, I don't see how that can be a City responsibility. The problem I have is that the ordinance in the City says that the sidewalks are the responsibility of the homeowner. The City will contribute a certain percentage towards it, and there is a form to fill out. If you had this done, the City pays a portion of it; we do not do the sidewalks over. It looks like, quite honestly, I looked at it from the top to the bottom and it looks consistent all the way down with its condition, which is not great of course because it is asphalt. Quite honestly, I would like to outlaw asphalt; I wouldn't like to have any asphalt sidewalks in the City. Putting that aside, whether it is lower than the curb, it is not the material and I don't know what the elevations were before. I would guess that they were lower before because we didn't raise that road. We milled it,

put the paving on it and curbed it. I am sure that the City Engineer has the documentation of the design, because every time we pave a road like that, he puts a design to it, another words, cut here, fill in here and there was no major changes to that. I can have him pull that out, review that area to see what was exactly done, and the repairs behind that curb would be done if it was eroded and the grass wouldn't take. We will certainly get that fixed when they do New Street, and we will be starting New Street soon, which it is a good time to know that.

George Sender: They were supposed to start Monday but-

Paul DiMauro: The weather is just timing around this time of the year, and we would have to go with the flow. What I get done, rest assured that the back of the curb will be done with the backup of any curbing on New Street, which is going to be the end of this paving project. I am sure that there are going to be areas on New Street that we have to put up curbing, soil behind it and all, so we will just do that.

George Sender: Prior to Roberts Street being repaved, it wasn't that they grounded it up and paved it all over; that road was totally ripped up from the dirt. The sidewalk always went out to the road. When that was repaved, the dirt behind the curbing sits on pavement, and it is not on dirt. They put dirt on top of the pavement instead of taking care of it.

Paul DiMauro: Let me take a look at that, from that standpoint.

George Sender: I would like to meet you there; I will take a shovel and I will show you exactly where it was before.

Paul DiMauro: If that is what it is, then I will take a look at it, and see why they did it. There were two things that they could have done: they could've left it the way it was before; which I wouldn't like because the sidewalk shouldn't go right up to the curb. It should've been set back where the grass area in between; that is the right way of doing it. My house was concrete right up to the curb, and I actually spent the money to cut out the concrete and put grass in there because it is stupid it have it right out, by the curb. So anyway, we will take a look at it from both standpoints, I will have the engineer review it and have him report back to me. We will have it done to put it back in the correct condition with the way it was, which is not a problem.

George Sender: The upper part was pavement, from the sidewalk all the way up to the road; that was all asphalt. Down from where there was a gateway going in there, I used to put my goat in the yard. From there down, there is sidewalk and grass.

Paul DiMauro: It should be that way all the way up.

George Sender: It never was, though, and I have owned that house since 1965.

Paul DiMauro: You certainly know the site better than I do.

George Sender: The pictures that I brought in- they should be part of your record.

Paul DiMauro: If we can find those pictures, have them copied, and scanned to me. In the meantime, I will have the engineer review it and report back to me. Whatever has to be done, will get done to correct the situation that is our responsibility. From looking at it I see the asphalt- I thought you were talking about it being damaged. The sidewalk should be replaced at some time.

George Sender: The damage from the fire hydrant during this winter-

Paul DiMauro: George, I am talking about it all the way down; sooner or later you will have to replace that sidewalk.

Alderman Kudej: That corner portion where New and Roberts meet, that was sort of repaired by our department. It is kind of awkward when you step on it.

Paul DiMauro: We are going to mill that area.

Alderman Kudej: Okay, I just want you to pay attention to it, that's all.

Paul DiMauro: I understand, they will pay attention to it and I will make a special note of that. I will get a report from him and then he will report back to me.

George Sender: Another thing that I want to bring up is 3 New Street. It is not my issue; however, it is a safety issue that will concern all of us. That part of New Street makes a 90, and then it goes directly down the hill until the end. From the top of that hill to the bottom, years ago there used to be this old wooden post or cable there. I have owned that house since 1962. That guardrail has never been touched, and all the posts are rotted; they do not even exist. I have mentioned that to Stan several months ago and the school bus also runs that route.

Paul DiMauro: No problem, we will install a new guardrail. We will put that on our list to get done. It is certainly an area that should have one.

**Judson Crawford, 8 Jordan Avenue**

Two items: the work that was just discussed with Mr. DiMauro and the committee, my only question would have been: Was the initial work started and completed? And has someone from the City reached that bond?

Paul DiMauro: There is not on a bond on that item; that is not a new street being developed by anyone else. This is part of our road program, so there is no bond.

Judson Crawford: Number two: When I read your agenda for this evening, your Item 3: Amendments to Ordinance #866 (Garbage, Trash & Refuse). After reading that ordinance, which was overrode by Ordinance #859, would it be in the best interest of the citizens of Shelton if you had some idea of what the changes are going to be into that ordinance, before it comes to your table for discussion?

Paul DiMauro: It has not gone to the Board of Aldermen yet.

Chairman McPherson: Actually, I think when we were doing this whole process one year ago; we actually had the public come out.

Paul DiMauro: Allow me to come back on this: when we put together the automated collection, etc, simultaneously I requested a change in the Ordinance. I basically re-wrote Ordinance #859 so it would be adaptable with everything to do with the new carts, etc. I also made some other drastic changes on fines, etc and threw it and basically re-wrote the entire ordinance, based on that entire situation. It was passed unanimously, we had a public hearing on it, and I believe it has worked out well. Alderman

McPherson had asked me a month ago to make changes in the ordinance and I said that I would be happy to review the Ordinance. This is the first time that I am seeing the changes as they are being requested. Some may be okay, and some may be redundant, or should not even be in the ordinance and we will address that. As far as I understand, this has not gone to the Aldermen yet; we are just here for a casual discussion. Whether this will get sent to the Aldermen for an ordinance change, or if so, what items I think are necessary to enforce the ordinance. So to answer your question, we are in the early stages and nothing has been done.

Chairman McPherson: If there are any changes that are put together, it will go to the Full Board, and then the Full Board will send it out for a Public Hearing. We are not in that stage yet; this is just a discussion of the proposed ideas that may be redundant but that is why we put it on the table so we can get started. There is another ordinance on the agenda for discussion purposes because it has to start somewhere.

Chairman McPherson closes the public portion at approximately 6:15 P.M.

## **1. MINUTES FOR APPROVAL**

### **1.1 STREET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Alderman Kudej moved to waive the reading of the Street Committee Meeting Minutes of May 7, 2013. Aldermen Farrell seconded the motion. All were in favor and motion carried 3-0.

## **2. NEW BUSINESS**

### **2.1 PROPOSED ORDINANCE ON FURNITURE ON SIDEWALKS**

Chairman McPherson: I was at a Downtown Sub-Committee Meeting, and this a proposed ordinance on furniture on sidewalks pertaining to restaurants, establishments, etc. This was there while I attended the Downtown Sub-Committee Meeting that is held every month, and it is attended by some of the P& Z people, chairpersons, staff, etc. Sometimes

the business that is on the agenda for that, and we had one of the business owners who said that they would like to put some tables out in front of their restaurant. We did not have any regulations when it came up on the discussion that there were no regulations to do that. The problem being is that if you look at Downtown, the sidewalks are not uniform in width; they are very old, maybe the oldest part of the City. I would try to draft up something to work with zoning and the staff to at least get an ordinance and put it on the table for discussion that meets with what Planning & Zoning, and what the Aldermen need to do. The Aldermen have the jurisdiction over the public sidewalks and the public rights of way. So, you have a draft that I have originally done, but there is another draft that I don't think that you have the copy of it. I have it somewhere and I will get you copies soon, I apologize. It is much more in detail because I had met with Mr. Schultz and Mr. Paneco. Mr. Schultz had sent me a draft of a proposed ordinance, of which I think that we really need to sit down and take the best of both of them into one ordinance. There are some issues too, that are in it. We would like a simple ordinance if that is possible but Counsel, Atty. Sous, has been researching CCM; he has found some material that he will be getting to us. I had also spoken with Chairman Parkins, who also had some concerns with the widths of the sidewalks, because they are not uniform. With some of the type of furniture, which I thought anything with the furniture would be a Planning & Zoning thing, but the bottom line would be, once we have an ordinance that is reconciled with the changes that Counsel makes, the thought was when the person had met the conditions with Zoning and City Engineer, in the terms of the sidewalk, and how far on that sidewalk that you can put your said furniture, bistro-type furniture there. Then, it would go the Aldermen for final approval, because we have the jurisdiction over the sidewalks and the rights of way. There is going to be several back and forths on this, but I wanted to at least get it out now for the discussion, in the hope that we can get something that is agreeable to all parties.

Comments? Concerns?

Paul DiMauro: I don't care, but just make sure you have a constant, standard width, maybe two feet or something like that. You need to have constant width, so there is enough room where they want to put everything where they want to. I saw the ones that are out in Downtown now and I have no problem with it. I think it is attractive, I think it makes Downtown look more appealing. I like the whole concept of it.

Chairman McPherson: We discussed it at the Sub-Committee a few weeks ago, and I think it is a good idea, in order to attract customers and to do everything to make it look attractive. I have been to several places outside of the State, and I think that you can go to Newport, Mobile, Alabama and other places that have them. A couple of concerns were the mix and match-when someone has green plastic furniture with white plastic furniture, and so forth.

Paul DiMauro: That would not be my objection; I don't think it should look the same. If someone were running an ice cream shop, then he would have different kinds, then of someone else. My concern is if the City would have the proper insurance in place for everyone who places stuff out there, because if someone spills something out there; may it be ice cream or if someone slips on something; we cannot be responsible for slips and falls.

Alderman Kudej: The thing that I was concerned about was that we have kids on skateboards coming down the sidewalks almost all the time, and kids riding their bicycles all the time. We are going to be putting up tables up there to take up a good part of that sidewalk. We are probably going to wind up with an accident somewhere-

Paul DiMauro: The other question is why should you allow skateboards up and down the sidewalk?

Alderman Kudej: I know; we have to be able to stop these things.

Paul DiMauro: Well that is what I am getting at; you shouldn't allow skateboards on sidewalks because they are dangerous.

Alderman Kudej: I know, they should not be allowed on the road, either.

Paul DiMauro: They are not meant to be on sidewalks where people are walking along. They should eliminate it.

Alderman Kudej: I do not even know how many times I hear it. The constituents that patronize Downtown are always screaming for police presence because of the element that hangs around there, on the street corners. You get those sidewalks out there and they may not turn out to be a rowdy bunch. How do we control the amount of skateboarders and bicyclists on the sidewalks?



Chairman McPherson: That is for the police.

Aldermen Kudej: I believe that, but we just need to bring it out, and have it addressed. What are we going to do when it happens?

Chairman McPherson: We could have the Chief in, as part of a meeting and that is fine. The other concerns were, what I put in the ordinance was that anyone putting out furniture on their sidewalk, it must be in proper condition and it must be approved by the City Engineer. Also, any repairs that they may need-

Paul DiMauro: Why would you need the City Engineer?

Alderman Kudej: We had someone that had a regular sofa in front of the sidewalk.

Paul DiMauro: This is an ordinance that you are going to be discussing at the proper point. The other thing that you can put in there is that everything that is put out there is either rain or weatherproof.

Alderman Kudej: Maybe include patio-type furniture?

Paul DiMauro: Don't put language in there that it has to be water repellent, or something of that nature.

Chairman McPherson: That is not for this ordinance; that is for the zoning guidelines.

Paul DiMauro: I am saying that they will address the issue.

Chairman McPherson: What I am talking about is to address to make sure that person's sidewalk is properly repaired to the satisfaction of the City Engineer.

Paul DiMauro: Public Works, please.

Chairman McPherson: Public works is even better because I do not like this mix and match of concrete and asphalt. That is what I put in here.

Paul DiMauro: Then I think that should be the policy, citywide. Thirty years ago, they thought it was overridden, because they thought it was going to be an undue burden. I think it is about time that there should be concrete or another hard substance because pavers are okay in some areas. I would like to get rid of asphalt on sidewalks completely.

Chairman McPherson: Just go Downtown and you will see it all over. Monaco put all of that on the corner down there, and he never had a permit. He put all that asphalt down there and now we are stuck with it. It is what it is. I put in the proposed ordinance that asphalt is not allowed. We have it out, and at least we got a discussion going. There will be several drafts that will be going back and forth, but I do agree with you to put in for the approval of Public Works.

## 2.2 ISLAND AT INTERSECTION OF BROOK STREET AND HOWE AVENUE

## 2.3 ISLAND AT INTERSECTION OF GROVE STREET AND PLASKON DRIVE

### (JOINT DISCUSSION ON THE ABOVE ITEMS)

Chairman McPherson: Stan, I put on the intersection of Brook and Howe. I saw that someone was doing some work down there this morning; I think it was one of our trucks.

Paul DiMauro: Where is that?

Chairman McPherson: I call it the Library Hill, down on Brook Street.

Paul DiMauro: They were probably just patching. I want to review that road for overlay because while we were talking about that, a sore subject that has been on all of our minds is the section of Route 108, which has now been paved by the old Lanzi store. Last week, I was able to contact the association that I belong to and I got the name of the Highway Operations Bureau Chief of the State that runs all of them. His name is Michael Lonergan, and I was able to get him to call me directly, and he contacted District 3 where our people are here that maintain it. They have assured me that it will be done this summer; they will hopefully schedule it for August. I

inquired to say that they would be doing Center Street next week, why can't you just tag on Center Street and save everyone a lot of grief and money? No, you can't do that because it is a State Bureaucracy; that is one project and you can't drag that guy to go up and do that little piece. So, they have to schedule it separately, it is a separate project but he has assured me that it will get done. He gave me his name and number, and if it is not done by the beginning of August, I will be contacting him to make sure that we have the date. Having said that, if they are going to do that piece, I think it would be a good idea for us to do the Library Hill (Brook Street), all the way down until the Boys & Girls Club. We will take a look at it. We wanted to do White Street, which is in real rough shape, in front of Luther's. I wanted to take it from Coram, all the up and grab the small piece on Wooster Street by the library, and bring that down to Beard Street, so you have a connector of all newly paved roads. The problem is that, the Sewer Commission is planning to attempt to put a sewer line, to bypass the sewer line for where the sewage comes from this area up above, and down White Street. They are going to intercept a line down White Street, and down under the bridge that way. They are getting ready to put out a bid for that, so I cannot do that. We will patch in the meantime, and then wait for them to do what they have to do. I asked Tom Sym when he is putting that bid out, to put in a good, solid temporary patch in, and have an alternate on the permanent paving so we can use those when we are going towards the curb and milling the rest of it. Unfortunately, we will not see that done this year; I would have loved to see that strip done and connected through, since we are getting this piece of Route 108 done. That is where we are on that, just so you know.

Chairman McPherson: What about that island there? Does it serve any purpose?

Paul DiMauro: I don't know. Years back, I removed dozens of islands in various places. As you can see, we had a lot of opposition when we were thinking of removing the island on Buddington and Huntington Road. There was mix of who wanted and did not want that to happen, but that area is wide enough. It may not serve a purpose, but it doesn't pose any harm either. If you are coming down to traffic light or stopping, you are going to make a left or right. I think it would be a lot worse if the island was removed because the traffic might tend to go left over that area; I think it is nice to have the traffic delineated. If there weren't a traffic light there, then I would understand what you are saying, that there is no purpose for the island. Quite honestly, in that area, I do not know if there would be an advantage of

removing it. I think you brought up another one: I read about the one between Grove Street and Coram Road. The problem is that you would have to extend a couple of driveways all the way out to Coram Road.

Alderman Kudej: The one on Grove Street out to Coram Road; I brought that one up to the Mayor, maybe around four or five years ago. Ann Walsh was on my case, and there was little piece of land that was overgrown that was bushy, and it looked horrible. She asked me if we could get something to beautify it and make it look nice, make it pleasant to look at. Mark said that he wanted to get rid of it. He said he wanted to get rid of it and make it a "T".

Paul DiMauro: You could make it a "T" very simply, as far as coming out of Grove Street, bring it all the way out to Coram Road and then have it go right and left. We may or may not want to keep the other part, and have a right turn only when you make a right onto Coram, going up to Grove Street. Maybe there should be a single lane there; that might be a better solution; maybe not. I am trying to think if there are two driveways involved. If there is only one driveway, you want to make sure that there not a line of sight issue.

Alderman Kudej: I know there is one; I am not sure if there is a second one?

Paul DiMauro: That driveway might cut into Grove Street right there; probably far enough back from Coram Road. You might want to do that, but you have to talk with the resident first. Quite honestly, right now, the last thing I want to do is take a project on like that.

We are up to here, and we are trying to get roads ready for paving. We have two drainage projects that have to be done; an extension on a pipe on an erosion problem that I have on Long Hill Avenue that I have to bring out further. The pipe is ordered, and I have approval from Inland/Wetlands to extend because of the tremendous erosion problem. I also have a collapsed 48-inch pipe on Chamberlain Drive; we are going to be looking for some more money from LOCIP to buy that pipe and put that it in. That is a bit of a project there, so we might put that off later in the year. We want to take advantage of the good weather now. Having said, I think we have completed as much as we can for the drainage project on Hillside Avenue. We brought it all of the way up to the Jones' house. Stan will understand what I am talking about. Sorry for mentioning these names, but those of you

that have been around will know where it is; this was before the bad corner near Papale. So now, we have brought basins up that far. On the right hand side, I told them to mill down the gutter and to beef up the center, so the water stays on the other side, on Papale's side as much as possible. Then beyond that, we are going to have to look up on Coram Road; we are still getting a watercourse all the way up on Coram, but for now, on Hillside Avenue it is going to be edged on the ledge; I can't be putting off things on the roadway because the roadway is bad. We are probably going to skid paint that and chip seal that section of Hillside Avenue, like we did the other side. Eventually I would like to look at Coram, so we can bring some drainage up, just past where Hillside is and bring all that water to Coram because that is where it should be going. Now, spilling down into Hillside, whereas if I can put some piping in next winter, I can get a lot of that water diverted over with all of the water on both places. That is basically where we are on this point.

Alderman Kudej: It would be a nice move to remove some of those phone calls I keep getting.

Paul DiMauro: We are going to do it. I was hoping to get around the corner, but I have to look at the cost against what the benefit are there, and someday down the road we will be able to spend the time, energy and the money for it. We have accomplished 75% of the problems and I think I can take care of the remaining 25% of the problem on Coram, and then there will be drainage on Coram, and that will solve another 25%. The rest of it, we will live with until some time when we can put our energies and monies into it because we really want to kick butt on the roads like we did last year, and the year before.

Chairman McPherson: You have mentioned Center Street; you know that we are getting ready to do the block the box; painting the intersections. Last year, the Full Board passed it, and it came off the State law that gave us the authority to do this. An ordinance to block the intersection, because when you go Downtown, you see all of these people under the light and you cannot get by each way. It was a tough sell to get it through, but we got it through. I spoke with Pete Zaksewicz, and he said it was going to get done but there was going to be an issue with the hold up of Center Street because the State was paving, so I contacted Jason Perillo and said since they are paving Center Street, can you ask them to start this way, so we can get through the intersection of Coram Road and Center Street?

Paul DiMauro: I think that is what they did, too.

Chairman McPherson: I know that is exactly what they did, so there will not be any hold up when that is re-paved, and we can get right on the markings that the State requires to block the box, then we have three more on Howe Avenue.

Paul DiMauro: I do not understand where that goes, but we are doing the bottom part of Perry Hill; we will be milling so we will connect that new road to down below because it needs the work.

Alderman Kudej: I had seen all the equipment there last night. They had the front part of Perry Hill chopped up, Oak Avenue chopped up and preparing to go all the way up Bridgeport Avenue towards Bridgeport. They were setting up the signs along Constitution and for the time being, so that the whole area is going to be chopped up.

### **3. OLD BUSINESS**

#### **3.1 AMENDMENTS TO ORDINANCE #866 (GARBAGE, TRASH & REFUSE)**

Chairman McPherson: As you know with any ordinance, when we all do an ordinance at some, and like many others, we have to bring them back and tweak them.

Paul DiMauro: I would ask to table this for now, because there are some issues in there that we have discussed with you, that should not be in there because they are in contract, or whatever. Also, there is some redundancy; we are covered as to when the carts can be on the sidewalks or not. There is plenty of coverage in the ordinance to the way it is. Beyond that, I would like Corporation Counsel to look at some of those areas, and if we are going to do something, can I just go to small claims? I certainly do not want liens; if you talk about fines and this nature, putting a lien on a property is worthless because they do not care until they sell it. I am talking about absentee landlords; they can care less if you are going to put a \$1,000 or \$2,000 lien on it; they will deal with it when they sell it, so they get it

encumbered. We already have the right, by law, to go to small claims, I believe. Let us check all of that with Corporation Counsel.

Chairman McPherson: I do not have an issue with that. The only thing is that brings bad nightmares for me: it was a 3-year battle to get rid of this landlord.

Paul DiMauro: It takes a lot of time and a lot of patience. We have been handling a lot of them. This morning, I had Ernie call some people to put out bulky waste. We got hold of the landlords to say that it has to get out of there, or the next notice is a fine. I am at the point to where those problems were either given as a courtesy warning, first warning and the next one is a fine. We will impose fines if someone is not cooperating.

As to part of the areas of Long Hill Avenue, the signs that are City streets are technically legal, so if someone is on Kneen Street and there is a sign posted not on Kneen Street, but where I have the signs posted, those signs are legal. When Trashmaster goes by and they are being blocked a car parked in front of one of those signs, the driver is to call the police department, they will tag the car, and they are instructed to pull it out of the way. I sent a letter to the Chief to follow suit with the State highway, and to get authorization from the State. Of course the State does not like to authorize anything; if they don't do it, we will be making calls, because we should have the right to say "no parking here" so we can clean up the town. They do not have a problem doing it for one day, but I asked the Chief to get authorization from the State, in order to enforce those signs. We will enforce them locally, but the State has to okay it because they are on State roads. I don't see any reason why they should not do it. We have had problems on Long Hill Cross Road; the last time I was up, I and I told the people that you couldn't leave this stuff outside; you have to bring it to the transfer station. I went down to the transfer station an hour later, and they were there. They were unloading their truck, cleaning it up and there is no more problem there. If you have personal contact with any of these people, it is a courtesy to say that they will not pick up your garbage. If the stuff is out there, and the lid is open, the driver has been instructed to not pick it up, and to tag it to say the reason why it was not picked up. If there is a car blocking it, we have a courtesy sticker to put on the car, that says something like, the garbage was not able to be picked up because your car was blocking it, please do not park here during collection time. We are doing all that we can,

but the program is working very well. We are operating with four trucks as we anticipated, and it is working tremendously well at this point.

Chairman McPherson: There has been one thing that we have spoken previously about. Some of these areas, I made a list of them and the people have driveways and they park in the road. I'd hate to go back to the winter parking, because Cliff Street is a good example. Everyone on Cliff Street has a driveway, and they all park on the street. Yet, this is the problem that we have when the trucks cannot get to them. I ran into a buzz saw when I redid one of those restrictions, which that got vetoed because we are telling people where to park. If you have access to off-street parking, park your car in the driveway, so the trash will be able to be picked up.

Paul DiMauro: If I had my grandsons and everyone park in such a way that drivers could not get it, I would put the container at the apron of the driveway. I had a call from someone on Center Street and said to help; you have to get together with your neighbors to work it out. We are not going to be the babysitters for everybody. We gave you the container and the carts, and one of the biggest mistakes was to grandfather Downtown. We should have just cut it off to every 4 units to have their own dumpsters, but they do not have any room down there. So, we are trying to be as cooperative as we can be. We had the problem on Howe Avenue, with how you put them out there so I asked them to bring them down on White Street. Now, everyone is wheeling their carts down below so there are no more problems. It is a one by one issue.

Chairman McPherson: There was a big improvement in the Conti Building because before we did this, on a Thursday, you can see 40 or 50 bags of trash. I could remember because we happened to have the fireworks downtown, on a Thursday night, and people were there and the Conti Building had 50-60 bags of garbage out on the sidewalk. I said this just doesn't look right.

Paul DiMauro: That is a commercial establishment and they should have their own dumpster. They called about a recycling thing, and Winter Brothers installed a loader. I asked Winter Brothers to bring it down, because that is a commercial establishment and they should have their recycling dumpster, also.



Chairman McPherson: I saw the way that Winter Brothers does it, and they are good.

Alderman Kudej: The other thing with the recycling at the recreation parks, down at Sunnyside, I was given two small containers that get filled up quick.

Paul DiMauro: If you need more, you can always call to get more.

Alderman Kudej: Up towards the school, where the other ball field is, the garbage cans are all mixed up: the soda cans, plastic bottles, bottled water, etc. I holler at the guys all the time because I would ask them to take the garbage, and they through it in the dumpster.

Paul DiMauro: I have more of those containers. The reason why they were bought at that size was because those containers are not picked up automated. We bought liners for them; the guy has to pull a bag out of it, load it back into the truck, bring it back to the yard and we have a recycling bin down there with the sloped sides; that gets handled at the yard. If it is not Pine Rock, they bring it to the Transfer Station. Any place else, they are instructed to bring it to our container at the yard. If there is any other location, ask Ron Herrick, and he will have Dean bring more. I have plenty of them if you need more. You are welcome to them, which why they were bought for specific parks and other events.

Chairman McPherson: I have one minor last thing on some sidewalks: I have noticed that some in the Downtown, Stan and I have talked about. Are you familiar with the steps that come down to Fairmont Place? That sidewalk over there is all busted up, and of course, it is asphalt.

Paul DiMauro: Are you talking about when you are coming down from St. Joseph's?

Chairman McPherson: Yes, those stairs that we have re-built and now it is overgrown, so we are trying to get the brush cut back. When you come down and onto Coram, as you come from walking down the stairs and going past the auto body shop.

Paul DiMauro: Where does it start? Does it start from the top? Is it that stair opposite White Street?

Chairman McPherson: Yes. From there down, that huge set of stairs is all busted up and it is all asphalt. I would like to see that as concrete.

Paul DiMauro: That is an odd one, because you have to find out who owns that. It could even be owned from whoever owns the property, near the side of the street, up on top of Fairmont. I do not know who owns it. If any event, that should be the property of the City. I can try to get that scheduled, to see we are able to do it.

Chairman McPherson: Hopefully you can do it with concrete.

Paul DiMauro: Well, I am not going to do it with asphalt. That is not a big issue there. Depending on the time of the year, we have to do it ourselves and we are contracted.

Chairman McPherson: Now, where Downtown Pizza is, it used to be Johnny's Pizza on Cornell and Howe. Is that his sidewalk?

Paul DiMauro: Yes, that is his sidewalk going down Cornell and across Howe in front of his property.

Chairman McPherson: He was at the Downtown Sub-Committee Meeting and I talked to him about that. I said lets meet and talk to the City Engineer.

Paul DiMauro: It is simple, because in Downtown, we only own in front of White Street, Probate Court, we own in front of the old police station and technically we are leasing the park on the corner. Do we own anything else in Downtown?

Chairman McPherson: Other than that, if you are coming up where the post office building is.

Alderman Kudej: Do we rent the parking area up there?

Paul DiMauro: No, we do not. We own the one on Cornell Street; that is our sidewalk. Going down Coram, and part way down Cornell, that parking lot belongs to us.

We should have sold it a long time ago because there is no need to own that parking lot, and the liability with that. It should be sold to the two property owners over there, and be done with it.

Chairman McPherson: I think that is a good idea. The sidewalk going up towards the post office parking lot, once you cross Center Street and going up to the post office-

Paul DiMauro: From the point where you go past Shelton Savings; when you get to the point where the driveway is, from there, up and around would be ours (around the parking lot). Across the street would be the owner of the post office. Technically, even though we lease the gas company property down on Howe and Cornell, we lease it. Depending on what the lease says, it may very well be the gas company's responsibility.

Alderman Kudej: That area has been heartache to us because people keep complaining about that fence that is lying down on a 45-degree angle. Recently we had a Downtown Merchant's Meeting, and his Honor said that the City would take care of that.

Paul DiMauro: I am not sure if he means the Parks Department, Highways or Public Works.

Chairman McPherson: He said that something was coming to the Board of Aldermen on that.

Paul DiMauro: You probably have to handle it that way, I am sure. I would like to see a fancier fence there.

Alderman Kudej: That is almost like a safety hazard there.

Report of:

#### D. Street Committee Members

Alderman Farrell: I still want to talk about that hole in the Transfer Station because people there are still falling in that hole.

Paul DiMauro: Which hole is this?

Alderman Farrell: It is in the minutes from last month's meeting. It is on River Road, right in front of where you are going to throw the garbage, not the recycling. Others have called, including me complaining that they twisted their ankles and has done some damage to their legs. It is a danger-

Paul DiMauro: Quite honestly, I thought that was taken care of because what was happening was when the machine goes there and they put the pads down for the machine, it puts holes in the pavement as it sinks down. I have instructed them to put concrete pads in there, to bring it to level so there would not be a problem there. I will look at that myself tomorrow and for now, we will fill it on one way or another. We will put a more permanent fixture in there if we have to.

Alderman Farrell: I do not like asphalt, but it used to be asphalt. I don't know what happened to it; it went away or something else got put in there. It sunk, and when it rains it sinks.

Paul DiMauro: I understand, and I want to tell you that it should be concrete of some sort, where the pad comes down and doesn't push down further. We will get it fixed because if people are expected to walk down there, it should be in good shape. A truck could swing by and fill it, if we have to. We have a lot of people there, and there should be no excuse for that.

Alderman Farrell: Every Saturday when I go, they always ask me when the hole will get filled in, so I figured that I would ask again.

Paul DiMauro: I apologize for that, and I will get that taken care of. Isn't it working well down there? This summer, I am hoping to do some improvements there.

Alderman Farrell: Yes, it is great down there and the guys that work there are so nice. They are so kind and they help the old people and they are interested. They watch everyone and they are right there to help if you need it.

Paul DiMauro: I am seeing that people are starting to use their bins at home, more because we are not getting as much recycling in the bin down there. More is being used at home, which is good. Our numbers are going up; they are not where I would like to see them yet. It is still an educational process, and a lot of people still do not understand what items to put in

recycling, so we are going to have to put out another way of education for the people.

Alderman Farrell: I always have to read on top of my recycling bin to make sure I am putting the right things in there.

Paul DiMauro: It is even more than what is on your recycling bin because after I ordered the bins, we added a couple of items that could be recycled, that we did not know of to be recycled. This plant is doing a fantastic job on separation. I went down there to look at it, and they are basically having zero stuff thrown away. By that I mean, they are at less than 5% with residual waste, and with the waste that they are; are little chips of plastic could always be used to cover the landfill. Everything that goes to that recycling plant goes somewhere. It doesn't get buried; it gets used for cover, used for this, or used for that. It is absolutely awesome, and the facility that those people put together, Winter Brothers- When I went up to the facility, it was like night and day from what it looked like before.

Alderman Farrell: You mean the one on Platt Road?

Paul DiMauro: Yes.

Alderman Farrell: I went through the whole thing.

Paul DiMauro: Did you see the backyard, and all? Even where they have the guy handling the mulch, and everything in the bins are nice and neat. Also, the extra containers are sitting in a neat row and the whole yard is cleaned. These people keep after the place; they are good. We are fortunate that we can send our trucks that close to get rid of it, and get paid for it.

Alderman Farrell: They had a fire there.

Paul DiMauro: That was in the old building, where they dumped the bulky waste where their offices were; it was the first building of the facility, not the new facility. It is a great operation and as I said, everything goes somewhere.

Chairman McPherson: What has become a big market item is when they recycle the glass because it is used in landscaping.

Paul DiMauro: It is used in landscaping, but the glass does not have as much value as the rest of the stuff that is recycled. Before we were getting paid for the hard plastics, and now we are not. At least they are not going into the waste stream and getting charged \$65 to get rid of them. There is really no market for hard plastics, but at least we are separating and bringing it up there. We are saving \$65 per ton by bringing it up there. We still have some people that just don't understand it. We are going to have to start with the ones that do not have the lids out, and have to check those bins.

Alderman Farrell: Suppose it is open in the air, over the container. Will they pick it up?

Last week, a gentleman who just moved into the end unit had it stacked all on top, and when they came they did not take it.

Paul DiMauro: The reason why he picks it up like that is because it is going to blow all over the place.

Alderman Farrell: All of his stuff was up in the air.

Paul DiMauro: We are not taking a chance with that.

Alderman Farrell: Can he get another container if he needs one?

Paul DiMauro: He can get another one-

Alderman Farrell: He just remodeled his whole place.

Paul DiMauro: He should stop at the Transfer Station; I am not going to give someone a second cart just for the cleanup. If they don't need it 12 months out of the year, then just feed it in slowly and bring it down to the Transfer Station.

Alderman Farrell: The builder took everything away. He took the sheet rock out of every room in the house.

Paul DiMauro: For what reason?

Alderman Farrell: I am not sure, but Joe Ballaro came down to his place and told him what he had to do. It took him a year and a half just to do it. They lived in the Towers on Parrott Drive and they have just moved in. No one has seen it, but it is gorgeous from what I hear.

Paul DiMauro: The builder took the sheet rock out so they can knock the walls down and create new petitions. That would be the reason for it, unless you have Chinese sheet rock.

Alderman Farrell: From what I hear, Joe Ballaro, told me and then gave him his certificate of occupancy. I am at Buddington Park.

Paul DiMauro: Are they old?

Alderman Farrell: No, not at all, however, that is what he wanted to do and they got his permission to do it. Every single wall in the house was replaced.

Alderman Kudej: I have something: what are you going to address on Hillside, there has been a few others in that area we were talking about. The weather has been such, to where the brush on the road is growing faster than you can maintain. Coram Road, when you get to the top to where you get to Laurel Heights Road, it is starting to devour the cars. One guy says that it was scratching up his new paint job on his car; I can't help it.

Paul DiMauro: I will find out where and what it is doing.

Alderman Kudej: I was talking to Joel Hurliman a couple days back, and there were a few areas where I think the brush is impeding the site lines.

Paul DiMauro: If it were, that would be first priority. If he gives us a list of where there are problems, we will certainly address them.

Alderman Kudej: He asked me to send him an email on the ones that I think are sight problems.

Paul DiMauro: That is fine. Once he gives us the list, we will be able to address them. As you know, Plaskon is getting done this year, and there is some other work in that area that is going to be milled. I am sorry, I meant Belmont.

Alderman Kudej: Both of them need it. Belmont and some of Plaskon we are going to do.

Paul DiMauro: Belmont has more traffic and we need to be on top of that.

Alderman Kudej: There is traffic on Plaskon, and it should go from Access Road to Coram.

## ADJOURNMENT

**Chairman Alderman McPherson made a motion to adjourn the Board of Aldermen Street Committee meeting. The motion was seconded by Alderman Farrell. A voice vote was taken; all were in favor motion passed 3-0.**

**Meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted;

***Brittany Gannon***  
Brittany Gannon



