

Brighton-Pittsford Post – “From the Supervisor” column – February 13, 2014 issue
Submitted by Pittsford Town Supervisor Bill Smith

Update on Sidewalk Projects to improve town’s walkability

Among my goals as Supervisor is to improve Pittsford’s walkability. That demands a focus on sidewalks. The Town has identified as priorities three projects. Pursuing each will require full public review and advice; the projects can’t work as intended unless each fits the context of the neighborhoods it will serve.

The projects are in different stages, both as to planning and as to identifying funding that will permit moving them forward if the public and the affected neighborhoods support them. The following discussion will bring you current on the progress of each.

Calkins-Tobey-Mendon Center “Safe Routes to School” Project

This contemplates sidewalks along the south side of Calkins Road and the east side of Mendon Center Road, from Calkins Road Middle School to Mendon Center Elementary School. It includes as well sidewalks along the east side of Tobey Road, from Calkins Road to Stone Road. It provides for a signalized crosswalk and will connect to existing walkways within the surrounding residential area. The principal purpose of this project is to permit children to walk and bicycle safely to school.

Town engineers currently are incorporating additional revisions required last month by the State Department of Transportation. We expect to submit the revisions this month. When the State approves these revisions to the preliminary plan, the Town will schedule public information meetings to discuss it. Depending on when the state responds and on public response, construction conceivably could begin as early as this summer.

This project is substantially funded, in part by the federal “Safe Routes to School” program.

East Avenue

Town engineers have completed a preliminary plan, based on suggestions and advice from residents in the immediate area, including design options, for a sidewalk along the west side of North Main Street/East Avenue, from the Village of Pittsford to the Brighton town line. As a second, related component of this project, they are expected to complete by the end of this month a separate preliminary plan for sidewalks on the east side of East Avenue from Alpine Drive to Fairport Road, and along the north side of Fairport Road from Murphy Hall (near the Fairport Road exit of Alpine Drive) to Kilbourn Road.

Once the second study is complete, the Town will submit both to the state Department of Transportation. Turnaround time for the State’s response can be

expected to take a year. That response may require revision of the preliminary plans submitted. Following that, and subject to the Town identifying funding for the project, the Town would schedule sessions to solicit response and advice from neighbors and the public. At present, no funding is in place for this project. While awaiting state action, the Town will explore funding options.

Stone Road Multi-Use Pathway

A few years ago, improvements planned for a portion of Stone Road would have required installing shoulders of five feet in width along Stone from Clover Street, running east to slightly past South Pittsford Hill Lane. This was driven by requirements of state and federal funding. Neighbors objected, and the State and the Monroe County Department of Transportation accepted, in place of the shoulders, a proposed multi-use pathway incorporating crosswalks and connecting with existing Town trails in the area. This project is substantially funded by both public and private funds and pledges.

The Town expects to announce shortly public meetings to discuss the proposal and to obtain public response.

The Town's new website, to be launched soon, will have a tab devoted to updates on each sidewalk project. Until then, you'll find these updates in the news section of the current website.

We look forward to public dialogue about each of these projects. In the meantime, if you'd like to comment on sidewalks or any other issue involving Town government, please stop by my office in Town Hall, give me a call at 248-6220 or send a message to bsmith@townofpittsford.org.