

**VILLAGE OF CHAGRIN FALLS
STREETS AND SIDEWALKS COMMITTEE
June 24, 2013**

Members present: Evans, Lutz, Subel
Also present: Himes, Holdren, Newell

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairman Janis Evans.

BELL STREET SIDEWALKS

Mr. Himes said South Russell has plans to re-pave Bell Street and add 4 foot berms on either side of the street to accommodate pedestrians, bicyclists, and other modes of transportation other than automobiles. Knowing that, going into this round of the Safe Routes to School grant cycle, we decided that a good application would be to apply it for the very last section of sidewalk on Bell Street. Bell Street is fully sidewalked except for the last several hundred feet before the village line on the north side from Walters Road to the village line and on the south side from Ridgewood Road to the village line. Fortunately we were awarded our full request; we requested \$168,000 to be used for the Bell Street project and the Mill/Cleveland Streets project. The proposed Bell Street sidewalk construction cost is \$55,000. The grant is 100% for construction and the village will be responsible for the design and engineering, which is about \$6,000. The balance of about \$113,000 will be available for the construction of the Mill Street sidewalk and that would add to the remaining funds from the original \$500,000 Safe Routes to School grant of which there is about \$347,000. The Bell Street section was scheduled by the grant folks for state fiscal year 2015, however, we have talked to O.D.O.T. and if we want to go ahead we can hook it up with the Mill and Cleveland Streets sidewalk project, which is scheduled for construction this year in September. Mr. Himes said the Streets and Sidewalks Committee has reviewed the proposal and we did mail notices of this meeting to all the affected property owners. Ultimately, if you decide that you want to go ahead with the Bell Street sidewalks we would need a motion from this committee and Council to authorize the engineer to prepare the plans.

Ron Bradney, 467 Bell Street, spoke in favor of the Bell Street sidewalks. He asked several questions that were answered by Mr. Himes and Greg Devries from CT Consultants.

Mrs. Evans, of behalf of a Bell Street resident, asked because of safety concerns are there any plans for where the children will cross? Mrs. Garvey said they are evaluating that now and that is really for the Streets and Sidewalks Committee to make a recommendation to CT Consultants. She said their hope would be that with these new sidewalks they would take a close look at Walters. There are no striped crosswalks at all at that intersection. They would also look at Ridgewood, which is also an intersection. Right now the police department is running a traffic survey. She said Lt. Dacek's feeling was that the west side of Ridgewood would be a better place potentially for a crosswalk if we decide we need one going north to south.

Mrs. Evans said another concern from a Bell Street resident was if they are going to remove trees. She said she assured them that they are not going to remove trees.

Mrs. Lutz asked if there is funding for lights? Mrs. Garvey said no because we did not anticipate that. But that is not to say we couldn't apply for that in the future.

Mr. Himes said generally we do not like mid-block crosswalks, which is what you would have at Ridgewood and Bell or even at Walters and Bell because traffic does not stop eastbound. By state law there exists, at every intersection of right-of-ways, a crosswalk whether it is marked or not. If it is not marked traffic has the right-of-way and pedestrians have to yield to traffic. If it is marked, the pedestrian, in theory, has the right-of-way but obviously doesn't want to test that theory with a vehicle. Drivers are not looking for crosswalks where there are not traffic signals. Mr. Himes said the Federal Highway Administration has done studies on those mid-block crosswalks and almost 80% of pedestrian fatalities take place at mid-block crosswalks. It is cheap to throw down paint stripes but we have to be very careful.

Mr. Himes mentioned that he met with one Bell Street resident who is not in favor of a sidewalk because it would encroach into her yard. Also, she is concerned about further vandalism to her house and safety of the pedestrians.

Mrs. Evans said out of the eight families that are impacted by this at least seven of them are generally in favor.

Mrs. Lutz mentioned that it is hard to create a perfectly safe environment but if you look at how safe it is now and the potential for improved safety, I think it is definitely an improvement.

Mrs. Evans said we can accomplish this this year if we proceed with this this evening where as if we wait it won't happen for two years. So I think there is somewhat of an emergency. If we roll it all into one we might actually save some money.

Comments were heard and questions were answered.

Moved by Mrs. Lutz, seconded by Mr. Subel that we recommend to Council the acceptance of this funding for the sidewalks on Bell Street and authorize the engineer to prepare the plans not to exceed \$6,000. Carried. Ayes: Evans, Lutz, Subel. Nays: None.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Janis Evans, Chairman
lgb