

**PARKING & MAINTENANCE MEETING
JANUARY 20, 2009**

ATTENDING: Bob Giola, Sr., Bob Giola, Jr., Mark Carlino, Ken Longo, Don DuBaldo, John Tunila, Esq.

STAFF: Tana Parseliti, Downtown Manager

PROPOSAL FOR SIDEWALK SNOW CLEARING BY DMSSD CONTRACTOR

Pursuant to a recommendation made by a constituent at the DMSSD's Annual Budget Meeting in January the board of commissioners asked the DMSSD Parking & Maintenance Committee to investigate the feasibility of having the DMSSD contract to have the Main Street sidewalks cleared of snow in the event of a snowfall that exceeds several inches.

Mr. Bob Giola, Sr. and Mr. Bob Giola, Jr. raised the following functional and liability concerns:

- Sidewalks along Main St. vary in width due to street furnishings and permanent fixtures such as light poles. This will necessitate smaller scale equipment in some areas.
- The weight of the snow could pose a problem for some of the smaller snow removal equipment that Mr. Giola would use. i.e. Kaboto.
- Using equipment with a blade that pushes the snow will create a ridge next to the roadway. This will add to the ridge created by the town plows. This could create an additional barrier for property owners clearing their property frontage.
- The glazed surface left after plowing could be slippery and would need to be sanded.
- Sand would need to be brought in by truck on an as-needed basis, at additional cost as stockpiling the sand in a downtown location will not be feasible..
- Doors from downtown buildings open onto the sidewalk posing a risk to those exiting the doors during plowing. An additional worker would need to be stationed in front of the plow to ensure that no one exits the doorways during plowing.
- Mr. Giola will need to invest in a new blade for his equipment (skid steere) in order to take-on this project. The cost of the blade is approximately \$3,400 plus installation. He would ask the DMSSD to share the cost of this investment.

Mark Carlino noted that the Giola's had raised valid concerns. He added that snow clearing using equipment with a blade could result in chipping the sidewalk surface. Contractors are required to carry bonds that cover the cost of any damages. Mr. Giola is currently bonded.

Given the liability and functional issues outlined by Mr. Giola, Mr. DuBaldo and Mr. Tunila, Esq. agreed that they could not recommend having the DMSSD provide snow clearing of the Main Street sidewalks as proposed. They will report their opinion to the commission at its February meeting.

OTHER SNOW REMOVAL ISSUES

Purnell Place Snow Pile

All agreed that the snow pile in the middle of the Purnell Place Lot has grown too large. Mr. Longo indicated that the town will remove the pile.

Main Street Snow Piles At Corners

All agreed that the height of the snow piles located at the corners along Main Street have grown high enough to obstruct the line of sight for drivers. Mr. Longo indicated that the town will cut down the piles.

Snow Encroachment Into Handicapped Parking Stalls Along Main Street

Snow piles have begun encroaching into the handicapped parking stalls along Main Street. The town will clear the snow from the handicapped spaces when they cut down the snow piles.

MAIN STREET STREETLIGHT ILLUMINATION

Ms. Parseliti noted that she has received numerous complaints regarding the lack of adequate light cast by the Main Street streetlights. Mr. Carlino reported that the town will relamp and relens the Main Street streetlights. Over time the lenses dull and the metal halide lamps loose intensity. These changes should result in a significantly noticeable improvement in illumination.

Prior to changing over to metal halide lights the street lights had 400 watt high pressure sodium lights. The ballast in the current light fixtures could not support that wattage. The metal halide lamps currently in place are 175 watts. They are equivalent to a 250 watt high pressure sodium light.

Mr. Carlino noted that the Main Street fixtures require relamping approx. every four years. He anticipates that advances in LED technology will result in lamps with brighter illumination at a reduced cost when the next cycle of relamping takes place four years hence.

Mr. Carlino also noted that Downtown businesses are not leaving their lights on as they have in the past, making the sidewalk area darker.

Mr. DuBaldo suggested that the town and/or the District investigate the feasibility of retrofitting the street light fixtures with a decorative pedestrian scale arm that would provide an additional light source. Mr. Carlino noted that the current poles were not engineered for that and it would be necessary to contact the company that produced the fixtures to evaluate the feasibility of retrofitting the fixtures. Mr. DuBaldo suggested that the District should consider providing monetary support for a feasibility study and demonstration project.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Tana Parseliti, Downtown Manager
Recorder