

Will a walkway be built on my property?

Unless a property owner is willing to grant an easement to the town, the town can only build within the road layout.

How will walkways affect my property value?

Studies indicate that walkways enhance property values because they provide residents greater options for mobility and recreation.

Who will be responsible to clear the walkway?

Clearing walkways of snow and debris will not be the responsibility of individual residential property owners. The Sub-committee will investigate possibilities for maintenance and clearing in its planning.

How can I provide input to the PWP Sub-committee?

All sub-committee meetings are open, and all correspondence considered. Residents are encouraged to provide input. Periodic informational meetings will be scheduled. See the Town website for schedule details, call 978-897-5098, or email planning2@stow-ma.gov.

Additional FAQ's will be posted on the Planning Board website:

http://www.stow-ma.gov/pages/StowMA_Planning_index

PWP Sub-committee Members:

Lori Clark, Planning Board

Tory Fletcher, Planning Board Associate

Martha Monroe, Member at Large

Tom Ruggiero, Selectman

Kris Wile, Member at Large



References:

Rural By Design. Arendt, Randall. 1994, Chicago, Illinois: Planners Press, 1993.

The Community Leader's Letter; Economic Brief No. 18, Property Value & Tax Change. Community and Economic Development Program, Clemson University.

<http://www.strom.clemson.edu/teams/ced/econ/5-4No18.pdf>

Town of Sudbury, MA. Walkway Committee Report: 2000. Feb. 2000. <http://www.sudbury.ma.us/documents/dl/191/Walkways2000Feb.pdf>

TOWN OF STOW



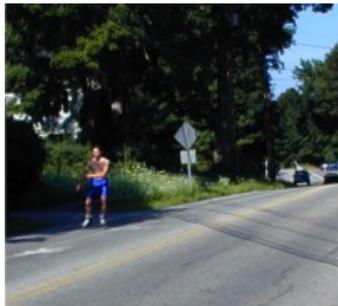
Pedestrian Walkway Planning

Public Forum
May 17, 2010
Town Building

PEDESTRIAN WALKWAY PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE



In response to widespread support for walkways, as measured in the town-wide survey, and reflected in the Master Plan, the Planning Board created the Pedestrian Walkway Planning (PWP) Sub-committee. The purpose of this sub-committee is to improve the walkability of Stow consistent with our rural character.



Without walkways in certain areas, walking along many of Stow's roads is dangerous. Maintaining Stow's charming rural landscape is also very important. For this reason, the sub-committee is considering walkways constructed of black top material that will blend

into the landscape, instead of sidewalks, which are typically constructed using concrete. In addition, the focus is on connecting destinations along major roadways. Where possible, the walkways would be separated from the roadway pavement, for both safety and natural aesthetics.



The PWP Sub-committee plans to work with residents and local leaders to inventory existing walkways, identify walkway priorities, identify additional funding sources if needed, and initiate construction of the highest priority walkways located along the 117 corridor.



Benefits of a Walk-able Community

Walkways in rural areas give people a safe route to key destinations whether for recreation, exercise, or as an alternative to driving to enjoy the natural beauty of the town at a slower pace.

Walking to a destination, rather than driving strengthens community relations and even allows one to meet new people along the way.

Walkways also provide important health benefits. Increased access for physical activity will help our residents control common health conditions, and reduce their risks for many chronic diseases.



Frequently Asked Questions

How will the town pay for walkways?

The initial source of funding will be an existing account. According to the Town of Stow's Bylaws, developers are required to build walkways as part of new developments. In some instances the Town has accepted donations to the town's walkway fund in lieu of construction of walkways in particular locations. These funds will be used to install walkways in priority locations throughout town, especially those providing safe access to key destinations. The PWP sub-committee will also continue to research other sources of funding.