

"We want sidewalks"

Lack of notification irked Meadvale residents

by Dave Pink
 "I'm surprised we stopped it," spoke Eric Lynch, 18 Meadvale Ave., regarding the Glenlea sidewalk halted approximately 24 hours after being approved by the Public Works and Utilities Committee of the Acton Council. In a series of private interviews, the Free Press spoke with residents of Meadvale Avenue and a smattering of those living on Longfield Rd. concerning the fate of a sidewalk halted after it was barely begun and of sidewalks, in general, in Acton's senior subdivision.

Notification
 Mr. Lynch said he and his neighbors had no prior knowledge of the sidewalk cutting in front of their homes and approached council to discuss it, not to raise an objection to it.

"We want sidewalks," said Lynch. It was the lack of notification they objected to. The previous week Mr. Lynch had noticed some activity on the part of surveyors and engineers in front of his home so he contacted the town office to learn what he could about it.

Deputy-clerk Hugh Patterson was unable to give enough information, so he was referred to clerk-administrator Grant Usher. Dissatisfied with Mr. Usher's response, Lynch made an appointment to speak before council.

"Had I received a reasonable explanation from the town office I wouldn't have gone before council," stated Mr. Lynch.

Cheaper rate
 A public works and utilities committee meeting Monday, July 9, hastily decided to take advantage of the presence of Montego Construction, the company which had just laid sidewalks on Main St. S. for the municipality and had offered to do the Meadvale Avenue sidewalks for a better rate.

The first notification Meadvale Ave. residents received was early Tuesday morning when the crew cut through town sod in front of two houses belonging to Lynch and Gerald Butler.

Returning from work that evening, homeowners were angry because they had not been told sidewalks were to be laid prior to the commencement of construction. Residents filed complaints with the town office and Mayor Duhby but it was learned only Lynch could speak before council that evening because he had made an earlier appointment.

Interest group
 Residents accompanied him as an interest group. Lynch felt the July 11 Free Press misrepresented the residents because it led the reader to believe the homeowners were an organized delegation set against sidewalks.

After caring for town property during their entire tenure of residence, homeowners felt they should have received some notice sidewalks were in the planning stages. It would have given them time to prepare for it.

Mr. Lynch was particularly upset because he lost about 300 bulbs in a rocky bridging town land and his own. He would have been able to save them had he received prior notice.

The sidewalk route would also have called for the replanting of some residents' trees on their own land.

Asphalt driveways
 Another question of asphalt driveways was raised. Residents William McCabe and Ted Pope both have asphalt driveways and it was felt by residents the crew did not have proper equipment to cut through the asphalt without destroying the continuity of the pavement.

Council countered stating the services were on the other side of the road and it was felt the west side would be the best.

Residents stated the flow of pedestrian traffic, particularly school children, most often walk on the east side of the street so they did not have to cross the road to get to the crossing guard.

They felt it was unwise to construct a sidewalk which would feed pedestrians into the Queen St. plaza area, with its high concentration of traffic.

Avoid plaza
 They felt it would be better if the sidewalk were on the other side of the road to lead directly to the Queen St. crosswalk.

Care of the gulleys lining the road was another residents' question since there would not be a definite boundary between the citizens' property and the edge of the road.

Many residents questioned why the gulleys could not be filled in to accommodate the sidewalk. There are storm sewers along Meadvale Ave.

Want sidewalks
 Residents of Meadvale Avenue's west side, Eric Lynch, E. G. Scott, Mrs. William McCabe, Cathy Munday and Mary Elliot all agree the subdivision should have sidewalks if they are properly constructed with advance notice. All Glenlea residents polled by the Free Press stated they felt sidewalks are needed in the subdivision.

Resident of the east side of Meadvale Ave., Diane Gibson, stated the sidewalk should be constructed on "both sides, this (east) side or not at all." She felt it would be a good idea to fill in

the gulleys and allow the street lamps to overhang the sidewalk. Street lamps are situated on the east side of the street.

Change heads
 Jim Denny, a construction worker and resident of the east side of the street, said the sidewalk should have held true to its original course. He felt with the services on his side and a change in street lamp heads for better light the west side of the road would be best for the construction of the sidewalk.

His neighbor, Brendan Aherne, felt sidewalks would be a good thing for the subdivision but said, "this one seemed as if it were

going nowhere." He would like to see sidewalks eventually continue to the Churchill Road apartments.

The Meadvale sidewalk is part of the town budget this year. Town clerk, Grant Usher said it has been halted for the time being but has not been stopped altogether. It will continue on the east side of the road to meet Longfield Rd. this year.

Longfield extension
 The Longfield Rd. extension is expected to run between Meadvale and Orville Rd. on the west side of the street next year. Mary Elliott, 55 Meadvale Ave., advised against this, stating children always keep to the east side of the road when walking to and from school. She feels it would be dangerous to route children across Longfield Rd., a street with no stop signs,

during peak periods in traffic. It would make more sense, she feels, to have the children cross Meadvale Ave. at the Longfield Rd. stop sign and have them continue the trip on Longfield Road's East side.

She also pointed out there is no illumination at the corner of Meadvale and Longfield to make the crossing safer.

No preparation
 The first Glenlea homes were ready for occupancy in 1956. At that time the contractor was not required to install curbs, sidewalks or storm sewers. Consequently no adequate preparations were made to accommodate them.

Now the town council and planning committees will have to learn to adapt to this lack of preparation and lay the sidewalks as well as possible.



MOTHER AND DAUGHTER ARTISTS, Elizabeth and Martha Hoy hold 10 kinds of arts and crafts classes in a pleasant country setting on their Nassagaweya farm. Two days of relaxed but intensive personal instruction are offered to their students.

Board to keep nine assistant superintendents

Haltom's current 12 assistant superintendents of education are being reduced to nine this fall and that figure is exactly what Haltom County Board of Education wants. A move at Thursday's board meeting to further cut the number of assistant superintendents to six in the school year 1974-75 was defeated by a 2-1 vote.

Trustee Tony Goodyear sparked the unsuccessful movement to further reduce the number holding that position. He said he felt the principals are taking over more and more staff supervision work from the assistant superintendents. Goodyear also claimed the men are spending about one-third of their time on clerical duties and they should be freed from that work so they could spend more time at meetings and visiting schools.

Hierarchy
 "I and many people believe there is a preponderance of hierarchy," Goodyear told the board.


His statements were disputed by several administration personnel and other trustees. Director of Education Jim Singleton said they don't spend a third of their time on "clerical" work and trustee Ernie Bodnar said if Mr. Goodyear could figure out how to free executives from paper work "he can make a pile of money."

Singleton said the board should try the system with nine assistant superintendents before it further reduces the figure. "We would like to try it for a year," he said.

The board agreed and voted down Goodyear's motion to reduce the number to six.

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