

60 North Street
Bristol, VT 05443

December 10, 2024

RE: Village Sidewalks



Selectboard Members:

My favorite subject in the village is our sidewalks, but I am not writing to you in regards where I think you need to install new sidewalks as I have addressed that topic many times in the past. I am writing on two other issues regarding our sidewalks.

When my knee was replaced this spring, I left the hospital using a walker, graduated to crutches and then a cane, but when my PT lady took me on a walk around the block I had to use the walker because of the unevenness of the sidewalk sections. In my travels to other towns/cities, I have noticed the same unevenness exists but they use a saw of some sort to bevel out these sidewalk sections that are a tripping hazard. Have you considered doing this to give the village sidewalks more longevity versus having to replace large long stretches of sidewalks? Yes, the sidewalks will still need to be replaced, but you can stretch replacements further out for budgetary reasons.

We are now dealing with winter conditions. The town crew is busy plowing roads and sidewalks and turning over sod. It is too early for frost to set in the ground, but as far as the sidewalks go what if the sidewalk tractor used the cylindrical broom in the early season when there is minimal snow on the sidewalks? The snow would be removed and you would have only minor sod issues. The snow plowers only remove snow; they do not return to the properties where the sod is rolled over and replace it. We have some senior citizens who struggle to put the sod back in place. This sweeping of the snow is not my idea; I just witnessed the use of a sidewalk broom in two other towns this week.

My two cents on village sidewalks.

Ronald L. LaRose