

**VILLAGE OF MORELAND HILLS
ROADS & SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES
November 30, 2021 @ 8:00 a.m. – Community Building**

Committee Members Present:

Councilman Ethan Spencer (Chair)

Service Director - Ted DeWater

Village Engineer - Jeff Filarski

Mayor Dan Fritz

Council President Steve Richman

Lt. Todd Dietzel (In place of Chief Wyant)

Establish Quorum - Meeting called to order by Councilman Ethan Spencer, Committee Chair at 8:02 a.m.

Approval of Minutes – Minutes from last Roads and Safety Committee Meeting held on October 5, 2021 were unanimously approved by Committee.

Comments from Residents – One resident was present, the husband of homeowner Angela Wyatt, Mike, whose topic will be discussed under Miscellaneous Business.

Committee Chair Ethan Spencer called for a preliminary discussion regarding sidewalks along Chagrin Blvd. We understand that some residents who live along the road have asked that the Village look at the possibility of installing them between Moreland Commons and SOM Center Rd to address safety concerns. While the residents could not attend this meeting to directly communicate their ideas, they are expected to attend a future meeting. There are many factors to consider. What follows are the points raised during the discussion:

- That section of Chagrin Blvd. is unique section of property. The uniqueness was confirmed when the voters approved the Moreland Commons development.
- Because of the walking of students and workers there could be potential safety concerns
- The committee is willing to entertain some ideas about and hear residents - possibility of doing something there but it is not completely clear yet
- Those residents who were supposed to have attended are believed to have a drawing to share
- It is believed that they want sidewalks on the South side because they do not want them across the front of their property (on the North side)
- Mayor Fritz has reached out to Dr. Campbell @ Orange Schools. Dr. Campbell received a letter yesterday telling him that these residents are attending a meeting to discuss this, which was the first he heard of it
- Dr. Campbell responded that this seems like a municipal issue and will work with the Mayor to offer input or suggestions as this moves forward
- Mr. Filarski stated that from a user standpoint, if residents on the north side are requesting it, based on the fact that they would want to walk to facilities, such as the library, etc. – the location that makes sense would be the north side. Plus the partial sidewalk already being by Moreland Commons would reduce the cost

- The right-of-way would need to be purchased, where the widening is, it is 5-10 feet from the curb
- How to purchase? If it is a public use, the property to purchase would be appraised and we would make that offer to the resident for that price - compensate back amount, which includes the value of trees, etc.
- This would work if they all sign and agree, but if there are some holdouts you can go through eminent domain process, which the Village would pay the appraised value; it then goes to court and gets decided by the judge as to the value of compensation.
- The right-of-way is one additional item to take care of on the north side and additional grading and retaining walls for Moreland Town Center.
- Utility complications - if you change grades, you get into gas lines. There are utility poles there already that are right behind so it could be worked around.
- If put on the south side, if someone walks to the end of a driveway, they would have to cross the street, which is not safe. We want to limit crossings.
- There is currently signalized intersection by the turn lane for the library. Somehow one would have to get to that point and cross, which is why the north side makes more sense.
- Mayor Fritz spoke to Jeff and Bryan Stone regarding grant requests. Limit of path being 6' wide.
- Mr. Filarski stated that there is money from ODNR for Natureworks for paths that are 8-10'
- Mayor Fritz stated that having a haphazard crossing of the street, would not score high in the grant writing process.
- Mr. Filarski stated that there has to be a Point A and Point B. It would need to make sense from a planning perspective – north side makes more sense
- Mr. Spencer stated that consideration needs to be made as to who benefits – how broad of a group benefits, and how it would be paid for.
- Mayor Fritz stated that in discussions with Prashant, this fits the definition of assessments – a small group asking for connectivity. It is something to consider as a funding option. It sets a precedent – if Village funds are spent for this, it could encourage others to request similar access.
- Mayor Fritz stated that he has a pretty good sense that this is a community that does not want sidewalks. However, this is an area that deserves our scrutiny and objectivity; it's a unique area. With that said, our steps need to be careful if we move forward so it does not become a Village wide issue. We need to look at an assessment or grant or both or some means for which this can be paid for that does not lend itself to a global argument throughout the Village.
- Mr. DeWater brought up maintenance issues. In surrounding communities, for pathways, trails, and sidewalks – all maintenance falls on the homeowner. Some communities require snow removal, some do not. Orange Village takes care of trails, but the homeowner is responsible for sidewalks. For most communities, the responsibility is on the homeowner once installed.
- If it is a sidewalk, it develops a tree lawn area - whose responsibility is that? We have a Tree ordinance that stipulates that the Village must plant trees, which opens a can of worms. When tree roots push up slabs, residents argue that since the Village planted the trees, it is our responsibility to fix it.
- Service Department took measurements – on the south side starting at Heathermore (across the street from the western end of Moreland Town Centre it is 1,750 feet to Gail Allison Drive; it is 1,000 feet to get to the crosswalk to get you to the area across street where sidewalk already exists from

Heathermore. Could a crosswalk be put there – 1,000 feet west of Heathermore? Mr. Filarski cannot answer that now.

The topic was tabled for now. This is a very preliminary discussion. We have some items to work through and think through after this discussion and will find an appropriate time to have the discussion with these residents. Much more thought and analysis would need to be done before any decision would be made.

Police Dept. Updates

- 1) There was no report.

Village Engineer Updates from Mr. Filarski

- 1) 2021 Road program – There are still some items that need to be completed. The topsoil and seeding along Meadowhill and Cableknoll will need to be done in the spring. Four driveway aprons need to be taken care of. One has a heated driveway that is not working. We are trying to get it working as soon as possible, at least on a temporary basis. Chagrin Valley Paving will be responsible for a permanent fix in the spring.
- 2) The Village Complex Stream Erosion Control project – opening bids start Friday. It is possible we will have the award by the Council Meeting Next Week so that it can be voted on.
- 3) 2021 Drainage Program – Complete. Final change order will be presented at the Council Meeting

Service Dept. Updates from Mr. DeWater

- 1) Drainage – Completed last two driveway culvert aprons (Jackson and Murwood). A catch basin was replaced in the rear lot of the service garage.
- 2) Winter - The crews have changed over for the winter season – interior projects and snowplows. We have 2000 tons of salt to get us through the winter. Main roads will be salted down, and side streets will be spot salted if additional snow is forthcoming; otherwise, they will be fully salted. This is good for conservation, reducing salt going into the watershed. Steep sections will continue to get heavier salt application. This practice has been in place for a number of years.

Miscellaneous Business

Parabolic Mirror request across from a Driveway at 4010 Chagrin River Rd. – Resident Angela Wyatt has requested that a mirror be installed due to safety concerns. The area has limited sight distance due to the proximity of the hill, and there is a risk of a collision between oncoming motorists and someone exiting her driveway. The Village has installed other parabolic mirrors elsewhere. A couple examples are Ellendale and Jackson Rd. The Committee agreed that this is a legitimate safety concern. Mr. DeWater stated that the mirror costs \$213. A discussion ensued as to who should be responsible for the cost of the mirror. It was concluded by committee and confirmed by a unanimous vote on a motion proposed by Committee Chair Spencer that because there is at least as much if not more benefit to public safety as there is benefit to the resident, the Village would pay for the mirror. Installing the mirror will be done by the Service Department. The Metroparks have been informed and have no concerns.

On a separate topic, the Mayor stated that several Hiram Trail residents have submitted a petition expressing displeasure regarding the Orange Schools use of the access drive at the west end of Hiram House camp. What was once a drive used occasionally for special events and emergency access has become a regularly used entrance since COVID, starting when the schools went to two shifts. This helped reduce congestion at Gail Allison Dr. and Chagrin Blvd. The use has continued this school year now that many parents are not sending their children to school on the bus. They are driving them to school. The Mayor noted that when the property became U4, the use of the drive became a conditional use for the camp. Village legal counsel has advised that any change in use would be required to go through the Planning Commission and be approved by Village Council. It is believed that this situation does constitute a change in use. More detail will be forthcoming as this situation is further investigated and vetted.

Adjournment: 9:15 a.m.

Next Meeting: February 1, 2022 @ 8:00 a.m.