

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. D(2)

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: MARCH 2, 2004

SUBJECT: UPDATE: CONSTRUCTION OF SIDEWALK ALONG BOLIN FOREST DRIVE

DEPARTMENT: PLANNING DEPARTMENT	PUBLIC HEARING: YES ___ No <u>X</u>
ATTACHMENTS: A. BOARD OF ALDERMEN ABSTRACT FROM JUNE 17, 2003 MEETING B. BOARD OF ALDERMEN MINUTES FROM JUNE 17, 2003 MEETING C. JANUARY 2004 LETTER FROM MEMBERS OF BOLIN FOREST PHASE I, BOLIN FOREST PHASE II, AND THE CEDARS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION D. RESOLUTION DELAYING FURTHER ACTION ON BOLIN FOREST DRIVE SIDEWALK UNTIL THE SECOND SIDEWALK BOND ISSUANCE	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: MARTY ROUPE, 918-7333 M. CHRIS PETERSON, 918-7427

PURPOSE

On June 17, 2003, the Board of Aldermen adopted a resolution committing the Town to the construction of a sidewalk along the eastern side of Bolin Forest Drive from North Greensboro Street to Stable Drive. Since that time, preparation of construction plans for the project has commenced, but construction has not yet begun. Recently, members of the surrounding neighborhoods approached staff seeking clarification on the type of sidewalk to be constructed. After receiving clarification, these individuals requested an opportunity to appear before the Board of Aldermen to further discuss the type of sidewalk to be built in this location. This report serves to update the Board on the status of the project as well as to convey to the Board the concerns of certain members of the surrounding neighborhoods. The Administration requests that the Board accept the report and consider providing further guidance on appropriate next steps related to the project.

INFORMATION

Background:

As mentioned above, the Board of Aldermen discussed at its June 17, 2003 meeting the matter of whether a sidewalk should be constructed along Bolin Forest Drive (**Attachment A**). At the conclusion of the discussion, the Board adopted a resolution committing the Town to the construction of a sidewalk along the eastern side of Bolin Forest Drive (**Attachment B**). Specifically, the resolution approved "the allocation of funds necessary for the purpose of installing curb and gutter and associated storm drainage and a five-foot sidewalk with a 3-foot wide planting strip at the eastern edge of pavement along Bolin Forest Drive between North Greensboro Street and Stable Drive." This language is reflected in the adopted minutes for the meeting. Since that time, the Town Engineer has completed a draft version of construction plans for the project.

Update:

03-02-2004#2

In late 2003, members of the surrounding neighborhoods approached Town staff seeking clarification regarding the type of sidewalk that was to be built. These individuals stated that they agreed with the inclusion of a 3-foot grass strip separating the edge of pavement from the sidewalk; however, they were not expecting the inclusion of curb and gutter improvements along the edge of pavement. In short, some members of the surrounding neighborhoods would prefer a sidewalk design that does not include curb and gutter improvements. Their concerns about the adopted design and their request for adoption of a new, alternate design are outlined in a letter signed by five (5) members of homeowners associations from surrounding neighborhoods (**Attachment C**). One or more individuals may wish to speak directly to the Board about this matter at the meeting. The project effectively has been put 'on-hold' until such time as the Board considers the requests of the neighbors.

Options:

Staff offers the following three (3) options for the Board's consideration:

1) *Continue the sidewalk project as represented in the adopted minutes from the June 17, 2003 meeting.* As a reminder, the description includes curb and gutter at the edge of pavement, a 3-foot grass separation strip, and a 5-foot sidewalk at the edge of the grass strip; or

2) *Direct staff to construct an alternate sidewalk design in whole or in part consistent with the request put forth by the neighbors.* Generally described, the design preferred by the neighbors includes a 3- to 5-foot grass strip immediately adjacent to the edge of pavement, with a 4.5- to 5-foot wide sidewalk flush with the existing grade; or

3) *Delay further action on the sidewalk until the second issuance of sidewalk bonds.* The subject street is identified in the second tier of sidewalk projects recently adopted by the Board of Aldermen. Specifically, the second tier includes a proposed sidewalk along the entire length of Bolin Forest Drive (from North Greensboro Street to its terminus at Bolin Creek Drive).

Conclusion:

As stated below within the Administration's Recommendation, staff is of the opinion that 'option #3' may be the most appropriate choice at this time. This conclusion is based on the historical and ongoing discussions surrounding this sidewalk. The individuals submitting the recent letter (**Attachment C**) clearly do represent their respective neighborhoods. Still, staff feels it may be appropriate to delay further action until the second sidewalk bond issuance. Doing so would allow Town staff to openly discuss the most appropriate design choice for the subject sidewalk with the surrounding neighbors en masse. With the Board's recent direction to create a 'sidewalk review committee,' a mechanism for such a meeting is currently in the works.

FISCAL IMPACT

On January 14, 2004, the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) funded the Town's request for funding of the construction of this sidewalk in the amount of \$15,960.00, which requires a local match of \$3,990.00. If further action on this sidewalk were delayed until the second issuance of sidewalk bonds, then staff would request permission from the MPO to direct the allocated funds toward a similar project elsewhere within the Town's jurisdiction. It is possible, however, that the MPO might revoke the funding, which would effectively amount to a fiscal impact of \$15,960.00.

Also, to date, the Town has accrued \$5,300.00 in engineering fees for the purpose of designing construction plans pursuant to the Board's direction on June 17, 2003.

RECOMMENDATION

The Administration recommends that the Board of Aldermen adopt the attached resolution (**Attachment D**), delaying further action on the Bolin Forest Drive sidewalk until the second issuance of sidewalk bonds.