

Building of walks on town agenda

Walkertown talks about options for sidewalk plans

By Erik Spencer

JOURNAL REPORTER

Published: July 17, 2008

WALKERTOWN

When the town council approved the \$1.8 million budget for 2008-09 last month, it allocated \$200,000 for sidewalk construction.

Town Manager Scott Snow said that the council and he are working toward increasing Walkertown's "walkability."

"The council gives me the direction on how they want to go with the project," he said. "Directions come from town hall, but it's up to us to implement it."

Snow said that the town may receive state grants to help pay for the sidewalk project and some other road work the town has planned. Snow also explained that state roads qualify for grant money from the N.C. Department of Transportation.

The DOT has set aside \$500,000 to help in completing the town's sidewalks. To receive the grant, however, the town must pay for 20 percent of construction costs.

The town council has recommended 18 streets that will be the first to get sidewalks, with Main Street and the roads that intersect with it getting top priority.

Council member Wayne Hester said that the sidewalks will benefit the community. "A lot of citizens have said they would like to have a place to walk," he said. "Also, with the gas situation the way it is, I think people living near shopping centers will be walking more."

Hester said that the sidewalks will make the town look better and may increase homeowners' property values.

Snow said that the sidewalk project is still in the early stages. He will hire engineers and surveyors to look at the area roads so that the project can move forward.

"We won't know what the costs of particular streets are until we have some plans drawn up," he said.

In researching the sidewalk project, Snow looked at what other municipalities were doing with sidewalks in their town. He said that Rural Hall had sidewalks added along Broad Street last year. Widening the road and adding sidewalks to the 1-mile stretch cost the town about \$250,000.

Snow said that it was hard to estimate the cost of sidewalks for Walkertown, but the project could be expensive because of added features.

"On Main Street, we're going to have to have curbs and gutters," he said. Snow said that although that will likely make the cost of construction rise in some parts of the town, it is necessary for drainage.

■ *Erik Spencer can be reached at 992-0067 or atehill@wsjournal.com.*

Find this article at:

<http://www2.journalnow.com/content/2008/jul/17/building-of-walks-on-town-agenda/?news-local-kernersville-journal>