

## **Walkertown backs sidewalks Town council agrees to recommend plan, which covers 16 streets**

**By John Hinton**

**KERNERSVILLE JOURNAL EDITOR**

**Thursday, April 3, 2008**

### **WALKERTOWN**

The town council agreed last week to recommend that sidewalks be built along 16 streets, and along parts of N.C. 66 and U.S. 311.

The council voted unanimously to recommend to the Winston-Salem Department of Transportation that the sidewalks be built as part of the Sidewalk and Pedestrian Facilities Plan. Mayor Doc Davis said that sidewalks would be built on one side of the streets and highways.

Lynda Schwan, a bicycle and pedestrian coordinator with the Winston-Salem Department of Transportation, discussed the sidewalk plan with the council on Feb. 28. The Winston-Salem City Council adopted the plan in November 2007. Officials said that the sidewalk plan would help make the city a safer place to walk.

Work on the pedestrian plan started in 2005, and its research includes an inventory of the sidewalks in the city and surrounding areas.

Schwan said Monday that Walkertown must provide a cost estimate for each sidewalk. The N.C. Department of Transportation has allocated \$500,000 for the sidewalk plan. Walkertown is required to provide 20 percent in matching money for its share of how much the state spends in town.

“Our game plan is to get this done this year,” Davis said. “That should make us a walking community.”

The streets where the sidewalks will be built include Avalee Street, Darrow Road, Depot Street, Friendly Road, Harley Drive, Main Street, Martin Street, Morris Street and two sections of N.C. 66.

The other locations are New Street, Poindexter Street, Rocklane Drive, Rocky Branch Road, Ruxton Drive, Swain Lane, U.S. 311 and Wickenham Road.

In other business at its meeting last Thursday, the council voted unanimously to move its July 4 celebration to Town Center Park near town hall and the Booe historic house.

The move was necessary because a local church had reserved the use of Walkertown Community Park on Darrow Road for July 4 and 5, Davis said.

“We have a kink in our normal plan,” Davis told council members before they voted.

Last year, the town had a hot-dog cookout at Walkertown Community Park.

**The town provided the hot dogs, and local churches provided a program of patriotic music after the cookout.**

**Also:**

**□ The council agreed that additional barricades should be added on Ruxton Drive at Whitehall Village subdivision, a residential subdivision being built off N.C. 66. Council Member Marilyn Martin said that some drivers move the existing barricades or drive around them.**

**Davis said that only pedestrians and emergency vehicles such as fire trucks will be allowed to use the street while the barricades are there. Walkertown Middle School is on Ruston Drive.**

**“It was never meant to be open to the public because of the danger with the school there and the traffic situation,” Martin said.**

**□ The council voted unanimously to pay Gibson & Co. of Winston-Salem \$14,460 to audit the town’s financial records for a third consecutive year. The company will perform the audit and report the findings by Oct. 31.**

**□ The council scheduled a workshop to discuss the 2008-09 town budget for 5:30 p.m. April 10 at town hall on Main Street.**

**■ John Hinton can be reached at 727-7299 or at [jhinton@wsjournal.com](mailto:jhinton@wsjournal.com).**