



AMHERST TOWN COUNCIL

RFD# 2025016

Date: February 24, 2025

TO: Mayor Small and Members of Council

SUBMITTED BY: Aaron Bourgeois, Director of Operations

DATE: February 24, 2025

SUBJECT: Sidewalk and Curb Construction Policy

ORIGIN: This policy was reviewed by the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY: MGA section 47(1) states; The council shall make decisions in the exercise of its powers and duties by resolution, by policy or by by-law.

RECOMMENDATION: That Council approve the amendments to the Sidewalk and Curb Construction Policy.

BACKGROUND: This policy was reviewed at the January 8, 2025 meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee. Following some discussion the following motion was made:

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee recommend to Council that the language of the Sidewalk and Curb Construction Policy be updated to include replacing existing brick pavers with concrete to improve accessibility.

DISCUSSION: The brick paver sidewalks in the downtown core will soon be in need of replacement or significant repairs due to age and the effects of seasonal freeze thaw cycles.

Brick pavers also present a challenge for wheelchair users and persons with limited mobility. Amending the policy so that all reconstructed sidewalks are replaced with concrete regardless of the materials used in the original construction will greatly improve the accessibility of our sidewalk network, especially in the downtown core. Language has also been added to include the use of tactile warning indicator plates where required.

If approved, staff will prepare a brick paver replacement plan and include brick paver replacements in future capital budgets for consideration.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: Replacing brick pavers with concrete will realize some savings as concrete is approximately 15% cheaper than traditional interlocking pavers.

SOCIAL JUSTICE IMPLICATIONS: Replacing the brick pavers with concrete will improve the accessibility of our downtown sidewalks for all users but in particular those persons with limited mobility or persons using a wheelchair or scooter.





AMHERST TOWN COUNCIL

RFD# 2025016

Date: February 24, 2025

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS: There are no environmental implications associated with this decision.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: There is no community engagement contemplated at this time.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Direct staff to draft further changes to the policy;
2. Do not adopt any changes to the policy.

ATTACHMENTS: Sidewalk / Curb Policy 31600-18 - AMENDED

Report prepared by: A. Bourgeois
Report and Financial approved by:

