

Steve Pappalardo

From: Steve Pappalardo
Sent: Friday, January 08, 2016 3:00 PM
To: Steve Pappalardo
Subject: FW: Drake Road

Mr. Shenwick,

I am in receipt of your emails below to Mayor Mark requesting the extension of the Village walkway located on the south side of Drake Road. The only gap in the sidewalk exists between Forest Lane and Woods Lane. In deference to the Mayor's response, as he was not privy to certain knowledge and historical information on this matter, Village staff has previously considered this issue and based on the reasons enumerated below, cannot satisfy your request. By way of background, please be advised that the Village of Scarsdale currently maintains approximately 25 miles of bike paths and walkways throughout various residential neighborhoods. The Village's philosophy in locating these walkways was to provide pedestrian access to local neighborhood schools and a direct route for resident commuters accessing the train stations in Scarsdale and Hartsdale.

Also, contrary to most governments throughout the country, the Village performs all improvements and maintenance work including snow and ice removal on these residential walkways. The annual maintenance expense is significant, while the annual capital appropriation for walkway reconstruction covers roughly a single mile. The only new walkway constructed over the past twenty years is located on the north side of Wayside Lane adjacent to the High School, and was paid through a separate capital project account.

With regard to the section of Drake Road between Forest and Woods Lane, physical impediments at the site, including the presence of four utility poles, one fire hydrant, and one 48-inch diameter tree, limit the Village's ability to construct a walkway extension. Public utility companies such as Consolidated Edison, Verizon, and Cablevision, are granted authority, under New York State law, to use the public right-of-way for their facilities in order to serve the public. Based on the limited public right-of-way adjacent to Drake Road and the high density of utilities and infrastructure, including utility poles, electrical wires, telecommunications lines, water mains, and storm sewers, relocation of these utilities is improbable.

Although I realize this suggestion may be an inconvenience for the limited number of residents living east of Woods Lane, access to the sidewalk at Woods Lane can be obtained by utilizing the section of Forest that intersects with Woods and then proceeding on Woods Lane to Drake Road.

With regards to installing a standard 6 ft. wide bicycle lane on Drake Road, to do so and still provide adequate width for the vehicular travel lanes, requires relocating the sidewalk further south with the aforementioned utility issues, and the subsequent use of the grass right-of-way in the front yards of homes or the taking of private property. This is an issue on most public roads in Scarsdale which consist of a 50 ft. right-of-way of which the paved roadway is roughly 24 ft. The 26 ft. balance is evenly distributed on both sides of the road and consists of walkways, grass or a combination of both. As such there are limited opportunities to construct a bike path system.

Thank you for your concern and please feel free to contact me at (914) 722-1110 if you have any questions, or wish to discuss.

Sincerely,

Stephen M. Pappalardo
Village Manager

From: James Shenwick <jshenwick@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 9, 2015 10:36 AM
To: Mayor
Subject: RE: Drake Road

Thank you for your thoughtful email. I think complete sidewalks/bike paths are long over due and would be a tremendous benefit to the people of Scarsdale. Thanks Jim

James Shenwick
Shenwick & Associates
655 Third Avenue (42nd & 3rd Ave SE Corner) 20th Floor New York, N.Y. 10017

-----Original Message-----

From: Mayor [mailto:mayor@scarsdale.com]
Sent: Wednesday, December 09, 2015 10:30 AM
To: James Shenwick
Subject: Re: Drake Road

Dear Mr. Shenwick -- In partial answer to your question, it is my understanding of Scarsdale history that decades ago residents resisted installing sidewalks along Village roads. The reason for their position has been reported that they wanted to maintain a "country" or "rural" feel to the Village and they were of the view that sidewalks were too urban in that context. That may or may not explain why there is not a complete walking path on Drake Road.

The more modern points you make are well taken and can be considered. Of course, among other things any such project would, during the budget process, have to vie for an allocation of tax dollars along with other capital projects that are on the Village "to do" list. We can add it to the list for consideration.

Very truly yours, Jon Mark

From: James Shenwick <jshenwick@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 9, 2015 8:45 AM
To: Mayor
Subject: Drake Road

Good morning. There is not a complete walking path on Drake Road to Scarsdale train station and I wonder why not? There are gaps where there are no sidewalks. For persons of safety, exercise and saving gas (not driving) and environmental reasons Scarsdale should construct an entire sidewalk. Also there should be a bike path on Drake so Village residents can safely ride their bikes to the train station. Thanks Jim

James Shenwick
Shenwick & Associates
655 Third Avenue (42nd & 3rd Ave SE Corner) 20th Floor New York, N.Y. 10017