



TOWN OF GREENWICH

2 Academy Street Greenwich, NY 12834

Supervisor 518-692-7137 Town Clerk 518-692-7611 Assessor 518-692-9381
Highway 518-695-6033 FAX 518-855-4055

Hon. Marie Therese Dominguez, Esq.
Commissioner
NYS Department of Transportation
Main Office
50 Wolf Road
Albany, NY 12232

Dear Commissioner Dominguez;

As you may be aware, the State DOT plans to put in a brand-new sidewalk in Greenwich on State Rte.29. The sidewalk will go from the southwest corner of Fiddler's Elbow Rd., where it intersects State Rte. 29, continues over the Battenkill Bridge in Greenwich and ends on the other side of the bridge in the Town of Easton. From then on-nothing but right of way all the way to Schuylerville. We have been made to understand that the sidewalk is part of the work planned for the rehabilitation of the Battenkill Bridge.

We are mindful that under the Highway Law it is your prerogative to determine if and when sidewalks will be installed along State Highways. We are also mindful that upon completion the responsibility for maintenance will rest with the Town of Greenwich.

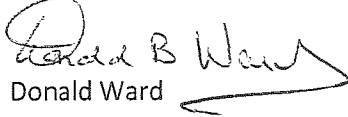
A DOT representative contacted Greenwich's Highway Superintendent in August 2018 inquiring whether the Town wanted the sidewalk and, implicit in that question, whether the Town was agreeable to maintaining the sidewalk on completion. The Highway Superintendent, after consulting with the then Town Supervisor, replied that the Town had no need for the sidewalk.

Sometime in March of this year, I was contacted by a DOT representative asking again whether the Town wanted the sidewalk installed as part of the Battenkill Bridge rehabilitation and I answered in the negative. The matter was raised again, this time by a resident, at a Town Council meeting in March of this year. The resident presented arguments together with ten letters from residents in support of installing the sidewalk. An equal number of residents present at the meeting voiced opposition to the sidewalk as well as the Town's Highway Superintendent. Then I asked if there was a motion from the Town Council members. There being none, closed the issue.

Imagine my great surprise when I learned that your Agency intended to proceed with the construction of the sidewalk. While I understand that it is your legal prerogative, I find it disappointing that your agency would make this decision without regard to the wishes of the elected officials of the Town, after a discussion at an open meeting, without regard to the subsequent burden to the Town's Highway Department or a study demonstrating a need for the sidewalk (other than the anecdotal evidence of casual observers) and further, that once completed the sidewalk has no connectivity beyond the bridge. In other words, it is a sidewalk to nowhere.

I respectfully request that you investigate the matter with a view of reversing the decision to construct the sidewalk and suggest that the \$400,000 price tag for the sidewalk could better be put to better use elsewhere especially in this time of crisis. How many ventilators can you purchase for \$400,000? The money can be spent combating COVID-19 and the crushing budget deficit. We don't need a "Feel-good Sidewalk"; we need fiscal responsibility!

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donald B. Ward". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Donald Ward

Supervisor

Town of Greenwich

CC: Governor Andrew Cuomo

CC: Senator Betty Little

CC: Assemblywoman Carrie Woerner

CC: Assemblyman Dan Stec