

The following comment were received after the meeting via email between 7/5/2021 and 7/11/2021. Email addresses and phone numbers (when provided) have been redacted for privacy. Dates and times are email receipt by the Town.

7/7/2021 8:58 a.m.

To whom it may concern:

I am not in favor of having a sidewalk on my side of the road on Benham Street.

Thank you,

Sandy Shia

270 Benham Street

7/7/2021 12:54 p.m.

Hello,

My name is Marcus Townsend and I currently reside at 278 Benham St. in Hamden, Ct.

I was just informed, by letter, that the sidewalk planned for Benham St. will be 14 feet from the edge of the road which will greatly impact my property.

If this is the case, I DO NOT want the sidewalk on my property.

Thanks,

7/7/2021 14:05 p.m.

Mark...hi. Hope all is well.

First, I want to just say that I really enjoyed the 'Walkable Sidewalks Project CTDOT 61-153 Zoom Presentation'.

It was a very informative, professional presentation.

As I mentioned in our meeting, I had to drop off for a Legislative Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m. that night.

Just a quick request.

Could you or your staff shoot me the link for recording of that meeting?

I checked you Town Webpage but could not find it.

It's not on the Agenda's link either.

I don't know if Departments are added to that link or not.

Thanks and stay cool,

Phil Cronan

7/7/2021 16:53 p.m. response

Good morning,

Thank you for asking. We did not receive a copy of the recording until after close of business on Thursday and were not able to post it until Tuesday morning, 7/6/2021.

You can find the recording on the right hand Files and Reports area of the following link

<https://www.hamden.com/769/Walkable-Sidewalks-Project-CTDOT-61-153>

Thank you again for your interest.

Mark

7/8/2021 11:52 a.m.

Prof. Austin: Thank you for procuring the Walkable Sidewalks Project grant for Hamden and for conducting the public presentation and comment hearing on June 30th. You and your colleagues deserve a Nobel Peace Prize. Subjects were all over the map - trash! noise! entitlement! ground water pollution! - but it was good to air them.

I am not on Benham or Davis or Treadwell but I am in favor of any walkable sidewalk project. I heard one lovely Voice of Reason - at the end of the hearing - amidst all the complaints. She said, basically, people LIKE sidewalks; they make for better neighborhoods. I think a Realtor could attest to that officially: <https://www.walkscore.com/how-it-works/>.

I do feel for home owners who will be faced with snow-shoveling public rights-of-way going forward but I think of my periodic snow-shoveling as a public service. ;o)

Best,

Paula Green

Greenway St.

Spring Glen

7/8/2021 2:20 p.m.

Dear Mayor Leng,

First of all, let me thank you for your service to our town. We keep you in our prayers and are grateful for what you are doing for the good of Hamden.

I am reaching out to you on behalf of the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus to express our strong opposition to the construction of a sidewalk on our property on Benham St. (addresses at 261/265/295 Benham St.).

We have had been in dialogue with Mark Austin, who is the town engineer overseeing the "sidewalk projects" around Hamden, including a proposed sidewalk on Benham St.. He has explained to us that there are three proposals for the placement of a sidewalk on Benham St.:

- a. On the south side of Benham, which is where the houses are located

- b. On the north side of Benham, which is where our property is located
- c. On both sides of the Benham

We have spoken with Mr. Austin about the sidewalk twice on the phone and once on a Zoom meeting, and I emailed Sue Gruen, town attorney, about the proposal. In all instances, we have expressed our opposition. We understand that a final decision on the placement of the sidewalk will be made by July 14, which is why I am writing to you at this time.

Our property contains the following entities:

1. 261 Benham St. - Sacred Heart Manor, which is our retirement home for our elder Sisters – currently with 27 Sisters
2. 261 Benham St. – Clelian Center, which is our adult day care center for elders – currently with about 45 clients
3. 265 Benham St. – Sacred Heart Academy, which is our all-girl high school – currently with more than 400 students, faculty & staff
4. 295 Benham St. – Mount Sacred Heart Provincialate and Formation Center, which is our Congregational leadership and formation center in the United States – currently with 27 Sisters

We strongly oppose the proposal to put a sidewalk on our property on Benham St. because:

1. We believe that overseeing and maintaining this sidewalk **would result in an unreasonable financial burden and liability risk on our Sisters and entities.** The length of the proposed sidewalk runs along our property for about 1,170 feet (or 390 yards, more than 3 football fields). As you know, we would be responsible to keep the sidewalk free of snow, ice, fallen trees and any other obstacles. Our property is also filled with many natural springs, which easily ice over in cold weather. During the winter we would incur a formidable expense every time we would need to plow such a long stretch of sidewalk, which would be multiple times with each snow storm, especially due to the fact that the city road plows would naturally push the snow back onto the sidewalk. In addition, the buildings on the property are far from the proposed sidewalk and it would be impossible for us to see when the sidewalk is need of attention. Our liability risk would be great. All of the entities on the property are non-profit corporations and cannot afford these additional costs and liability exposure. **As a result, we believe that this proposed sidewalk would result in an unreasonable demand on us.**
2. The Sisters, students, faculty, staff and clients who are active on our property are not requesting a sidewalk because they rarely, if ever, walk along Benham St. **So there is no need for a sidewalk on our side of Benham.** It is the houses across the street would benefit more from the construction of a sidewalk on Benham St.

Mayor Leng, we are extremely concerned about the impact of this proposed sidewalk on our Sisters, students, co-workers and clients, and we would be very grateful to you for carefully considering our opposition.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and, again, for your service to the town of Hamden.

Sr. Mary Lee, ASCJ

Vice Provincial/Treasurer

7/8/2021 2:20 p.m. response

Sisters,

Thank you.

We are in receipt of your formal letter and two emails from yesterday. We will be posting the first email from Sister Mary Lee in our comments page for 7/5 to 7/9 later today or Monday when we finish collecting the comments for this week.

We are trying to be very transparent by posting the information as we receive the information.

We greatly appreciate you taking your time to provide us the input for Sacred Heart.

Peace be with you.

Mark

Prof. Mark Austin, PE, PWE, FNSPE

Town Engineer

7/9/2021 11:20 a.m.

Dear Mr. Austin,

I, Sr. Barbara Thomas, am currently a resident at 265 Benham Street, Hamden, CT, and President of the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, INC. This corporation is one of many corporations located at 265 Benham St., Hamden CT. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the plan to construct a sidewalk on our property along Benham St. (addresses 261/265/295 Benham St.).

Our constituents, residents, students and clients, would never walk on a sidewalk along Benham St. They have not requested that a sidewalk be installed as the residents/students/clients are driven to and from the property daily. Overseeing and the maintenance of this sidewalk would cause us to incur an unreasonable financial burden and risk of liability. We could not afford the expense of snow removal during the winter as we are non-profit corporations.

The property is large and there is no visibility from any of the buildings to our property on Benham. We could neither maintain nor monitor a sidewalk along Benham St.

Mr. Austin, we are extremely concerned about the impact of this proposed sidewalk on our Sisters, students, co-workers and clients, and the impact of the expenses we would incur. We would be very grateful to you for carefully considering our opposition and give it immediate attention.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter and for your service to the town of Hamden.

Sincerely,

Sr. Barbara Thomas, ASCJ

President of Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Inc.

Provincial Superior

7/9/2021 12:06 p.m. (same letter to Mark Austin at 12:12 p.m.)

Dear Mayor Leng,

All of us here at Clelian Center, remember our joyful visit with you and keep you in our prayers daily. Your visit and putting us Live on Facebook had a huge impact on our Seniors and reaffirmed their value to this community. We are grateful for your service and all the positive energy you exemplify towards our beloved town of Hamden. Our Senior Members and their families are some of your greatest supporters and most have lived in Hamden their entire lives.

I am reaching out to you on behalf of the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, for whom I have the great privilege of directing their ministry, Clelian Center, a certified medical-model adult day center.

I need to inform you and to express our strong opposition to the construction of a sidewalk on our property on Benham St. (addresses at 261/265/295 Benham St.).

The Apostles had been in dialogue with Mark Austin, who is the town engineer overseeing the "sidewalk projects" around Hamden, including a proposed sidewalk on Benham St.. He has explained to us that there are three proposals for the placement of a sidewalk on Benham St.:

- a. On the south side of Benham, which is where the houses are located
- b. On the north side of Benham, which is where our property is located
- c. On both sides of the Benham

We strongly oppose the proposal to put a sidewalk on our property on Benham St. because of the enormous expense and risk of liability this would place upon our non-profit business. Additionally, our Seniors would never walk on this sidewalk, they utilize 'MyRide' or arrive by private transportation. I have never had anyone request a sidewalk or complain about not having one.

Mayor Leng, as you can imagine, since the pandemic forced us to close our doors for months, Clelian Center, is already struggling financially to remain open for service to this community. Our families and caregivers desperately rely on our service to keep their loved ones safe and cared for while they work and care for their children. Our Center is unique and specialized and literally keeps hundreds of our community's seniors annually from prematurely leaving the comfort of their home and having to enter long-term care, an unnecessary emotional burden for families and a fiscal burden to our state. This proposed sidewalk, and the financial and legal ramifications that inevitable it will cause, quite literally, may be the last straw from which our non-profit cannot recover.

We are asking for your support to consider placing this sidewalk on the residential side of Benham Street. The residents in this area will have the greatest benefit of this sidewalk. As I stated, our seniors and our staff would never use it.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and, again, for your service to the town of Hamden. I will reach out to your staff to set up another visit, we have new Members who would enjoy a visit from you very much.

Sincerely,

Patty Scafariello, RN

Director | President

CLELIAN CENTER

A Ministry of the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus:

7/9/2021 12:06 p.m.

Hello Mr Austin,

I and my wife are writing to you as Ridge Hill home owners in support of the sidewalk installation project along Davis Street. We bought our home on Woodstock Rd between Ridge and Hartford Turnpike in 2018 and have two daughters aged 3 and 6. Proximity to East Rock Park was a big incentive for us to buy in Ridge Hill and especially during the last year while our children were home during the pandemic the use of the park, especially the closed section of road previously of use to cars, was a huge benefit to our collective mental health. We go to the park as frequently as we can and have encouraged friends to buy homes in the neighborhood because of the park's proximity.

That said, it is sadly the case that even though we live a matter of blocks from the park we drive to the park when we go there. It is possible for our children to use the sidewalk to bike and scooter along Ridge to Davis Street. But when we get to Davis Street there begins a terrifying final stretch to the entrance of the park. The intersection of Ridge and Davis, frankly, is out of control. Cars blast down Davis to Ridge and often make right turns on red without slowing for a moment to check for oncoming traffic. I am amazed more t-bone accidents haven't occurred there. It is just so terribly unsafe in a vehicle let alone on the street, with no sidewalk, with two small children. So we drive. We shouldn't have to drive to a park around the corner from our house.

Thank you so much for reading, I appreciate your work on the town's behalf.

Jeff Deeney

Bethany Canver

Rowan Deeney (6)

Morna Deeney (3)

37 Woodstock Rd

7/10/2021 7:39 a.m.

Dear Mr. Austin,

As president of Sacred Heart Manor, Inc., I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the plan to construct a sidewalk on our property along Benham St. (addresses 216/265/295 Benham St.).

Sacred Heart Manor, Inc. (261 Benham St.) is the retirement home for the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Our elder retired sisters would never walk on a sidewalk along our property on Benham. It

would be very dangerous for them to do so. Our employees have no need for a sidewalk on our property along Benham St. as they all drive to work.

The proposed site for this sidewalk is not visible from any of our facilities on the property and therefore it would be extremely difficult for us to maintain and monitor the sidewalk especially in the winter.

There are many springs on our property which during the cold winter months could cause ice to form creating a safety hazard. All our facilities our non-profit corporations. To monitor and maintain the sidewalk would be a tremendous financial burden.

Mr. Austin, I am respectfully requesting that you seriously consider the negative impact the construction of a sidewalk will have on the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and give it your immediate attention.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your service to the Town of Hamden.

Sincerely,

Sr. Mary Anne Sharron, ASCJ

President

Sacred Heart Manor, Inc.

7/10/2021 6:54 p.m.

Dear Mr. Austin,

We are writing to encourage the Town of Hamden to install a sidewalk on Davis Street between Hartford Turnpike and Ridge Road.

We take almost daily walks in our neighborhood and regard that section as one of the most dangerous on our various routes. The road isn't particularly wide, and neither side is hospitable to walkers. Also, because of the peak of the hill near the park entrance, visibility is poor for vehicles and pedestrians alike.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Yours truly,

Carolyn and Charles Paul

625 Ridge Road

7/11/2021 6:56 p.m.

Dear Mr Austin,

As an area resident, I am writing in support of this project, especially the proposed sidewalk on Davis, and the pedestrian crossing to East Rock Park.

As a possible further suggestion, has any consideration been given to an additional pedestrian crossing control to the light at the Davis/Ridge junction? Presently, a pedestrian in East Rock at the south west corner of this junction has no way to activate the pedestrian crossing cycle.

thank you

David Coffin

62 Woodstock Road

7/12/2021 12:26 a.m.

Mr. Austin and Town of Hamden:

We are writing in favor of the proposal to extend sidewalks on the north side of Davis Street and also to install a crosswalk and traffic calming elements by East Rock Park. I am a longtime Hamden resident, and my husband and I currently currently reside at 75 Washington Avenue. Although we don't live in the neighborhood of Davis Street, we walk in that area quite frequently, either entering or exiting the park. That area is quite dangerous at this time for pedestrians, and we hope the town will go forward with this project.

Regarding the proposed Washington Avenue project, we are concerned at the probable increase in traffic if a large complex is put in, and how it would impact pedestrians as well as the flow of car traffic in and out of our complex. We would strongly recommend a crosswalk or even a traffic light at the main entrance to 75 Washington Avenue, and/or at School Street and Washington.

Thank you.

Amy and Ken Glick

75 Washington Ave