

Comments by Carolyn Sasaki at the  
Stony Creek Association Board Meeting September 5, 2017

Thank you for allowing me to comment.

I don't want to make a neighborhood problem worse, but I do want to correct some of the items in Ellen Page's letter that is part of the August 1 meeting minutes:

1. When we bought our home in 1986, the hedge already covered the so called sidewalk which was already in poor repair. We now have an outstanding landscaping contractor who trims the hedge to expose the ancient sidewalk (during his summer schedule - generally 3 times or more each summer.) To fully cut back the hedge would damage and very likely kill the hedge.

2. The sidewalk from the corner of Thimble Islands Road has long been in disrepair, especially the portion just before our property of 12 Long Point Road. The current lot #4 was created by combining #4 and #8. The portion at #8 was already dangerous due to lifted sidewalk from tree roots and weeds growing through the sidewalk. Also cars and boats were parked on the sidewalk regularly. Heavy equipment brought in to clear the snowstorm of 2013 lifted the sidewalk further. The entire sidewalk on Long Point Road was not used for walking long before heavy equipment was brought in to clear and build on #4 and #8.

3. Regarding snowstorms: the town mandates that cars not park on the even side of the street which is the sidewalk location. Thus all of the snow gets plowed onto the old sidewalk and our hedge and becomes ice which is impossible to clear. Homeowners are required to do the impossible on the narrow side streets of Stony Creek.

Additional comments:

When Long Point Road was last repaved (in the 90's), the town engineer indicated that since the road is so narrow they considered our sidewalk to be part of the road. Our sidewalk is completely level with the road and used for parking of vehicles and boats and trucks by others in the area. The proximity of a fire hydrant on the opposite side and two utility poles along our hedge further narrow the road. In the winter there is no other place to deposit the plowed snow. The town intended to pave over the sidewalk at that time. We requested that they not do that since the hot asphalt would kill the hedge roots. Since then the sidewalk has been treated as part of the road.

I request that the Stony Creek Association recognize the decision of the town engineer and the reality of the location. I have not been contacted about the hedge until now. I believe that the Stony Creek Board has already indicated in it's past actions that the sidewalks on side streets are not treated equally to main street in either maintaining or

plowing both of which are handled by the Board. We pay Stony Creek taxes but don't receive sidewalk plowing.

In the February 1, 2011 Board minutes, "the Board voted to eliminate clearing of the sidewalks on side streets in light of budget constraints". Only the sidewalks on Leetes Island Road, School Street and Thimble Islands Roads are plowed.

In the May 5, 2009 Board minutes under maintenance section, "#12. Motion was made and seconded and unanimously approved to remind homeowners as hedges grow to keep them clear of sidewalks. The streets are: Leetes Island Road, Thimble Islands Road and School Street."

I have not been cited before. The Board only seems to be enforcing hedges on side streets now and perhaps only my hedge. The Board has not enforced other sidewalk obstructions.

Perhaps the side streets shouldn't fall under the enforcement of the hedge regulations as seemed to be the intent in 2009. Since plowing of side street sidewalks was eliminated in 2011, that would seem to reinforce the intent even more.

I request that:

1. Based upon the town's engineer's interpretation, the Stony Creek Association should consider my old sidewalk to be part of the street at its most narrow location so as to ensure access by emergency vehicles.
2. The Stony Creek Association should limit the hedge ordinance enforcement to Leetes Island Road, School Street, and Thimble Islands Road as was also prior Board's interpretation.