

## **CITY OF DUNKIRK 2016 SIDEWALK PROGRAM POLICY & INFORMATIONAL SHEET**

Applicants under the City's sidewalk program shall comply with all requirements as outlined under Section 65-28 of the City Code. Section 65-28 (C) outlines the Applicant's "Responsibility for Work" and is outlined below:

### **Responsibility for Work:**

- (1)
  - (a) The owner of such real property is solely responsible for seeing that the work is done.
  - (b) Such owner may either hire a contractor of the owner's own choosing, or replace the sidewalk himself or herself.
  - (c) The City is not responsible for supplying any work, labor or services with regard to the replacement of such sidewalk.
  - (d) The owner, either through his contractor, should one be utilized or individually, shall be responsible for the removal of any old sidewalk and the disposal of said old sidewalk material.
  - (e) The City is not responsible for the removal or disposal of any old sidewalk material.
  - (f) The owner shall comply with all requirements as outlined by the Director of Public Works.
- (2)
  - (a) No applicant under this program will be reimbursed for his/her allowable portion of the cost until all old sidewalk material has been properly removed and disposed.
  - (b) Sidewalks not installed in an approved manner may be ordered removed and replaced or may cause forfeiture of the reimbursement at the discretion of the Director of Public Works.

### **The following requirements are in addition to those outlined above:**

- (a) All sidewalks installed under this program shall be five foot (5') wide unless otherwise authorized by the Director of Public Works or his designee.
- (b) All sidewalks shall be a minimum 4" thick and shall be of either 3500 or 4000 psi concrete. No materials such as blacktop, bricks of any kind, stone, etc. will be allowed.
- (c) Topsoil or other fill, as applicable, shall be replaced at sidewalk edges upon completion.

### **The following are some "tips" in choosing a contractor:**

- (a) Contractors generally place advertisements in the local newspaper and some obtain the approval list from our office and will contact you by letter or in person.
- (b) Obtain several written estimates for your work and make sure you understand what you will receive for the estimate.
- (c) Ask the contractor for references or sidewalk installations in the area so that you can determine their quality of work.
- (d) Most contractors will offer to seal your completed walk which is recommended especially in driveway areas. This is a simple operation and can be done by you by purchasing the sealer at a local hardware or supply store and applying with a paint roller or sprayer.
- (e) Keep in mind that most contractors will not restore the lawn or blacktop driveway damaged during construction. This will usually be done by you or the contractor at an additional cost.
- (f) Most contractors will not guarantee their work. This is mainly due to the fact that the concrete itself is furnished by other companies who will not guarantee the material. Also, cracks due to frost heave are inevitable.

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- (g) Most cracks and heaving can be minimized by installing expansion joints at minimum 25 foot intervals along the sidewalk and adjacent to concrete driveways or intersecting sidewalks. Construction joints should be cut every 5 feet. Wire mesh is usually recommended.

Since numerous contractors are now available for sidewalk installation and each has their own way of doing things, the City has now found it necessary to require the following installation requirements. These are for the property owners benefit and also to maintain a similar appearance of all sidewalks throughout the City. **Make sure both you and your contractor, should you choose one, are aware of these requirements. Failure to adhere to these requirements may jeopardize your reimbursement.**

- (a) All sidewalks must be 5 foot in width and constructed solely of either 4000 psi concrete (NYSDOT Class D Concrete). You can ask to see the concrete truck load slip to verify that you are getting the correct mix. Some areas in the City have 4 foot wide sidewalks. These are the only areas where the 5 foot rule does not apply. If the sidewalk fronting your property is presently 5' wide, that width must be maintained.
- (b) As noted above, blacktop sidewalks, even at driveways, are illegal and must be replaced along with the sidewalk. Some commercial businesses are allowed blacktop in the apron area under certain conditions.
- (c) Sidewalk blocks shall be 5' x 5'. The exception is in areas with 4 foot sidewalk widths. These blocks can be 4' x 4' or 4' x 5' at the contractor's option. For odd sidewalk lengths, the final block can be adjusted to fit.
- (d) In addition to the block size above, expansion joint material generally approved by the profession should be installed at minimum 25' intervals and at the joints between new and existing sidewalk.
- (e) All concrete surfaces shall receive a broom finish. Trowel surfaces will not be allowed. All edge and joint corners shall be finished with an appropriate edging tool. This will assure a neat appearance and maintain the integrity of the edge.
- (f) Sidewalk grades may not be altered from existing without the approval of this office. For example, some contractors lower several blocks of sidewalk through a steep driveway in order to allow for easier vehicle entry. This may not be allowed after inspection by this office. Also, existing sidewalk blocks adjacent to the main sidewalk such and those between the sidewalk and curb or sidewalk and residence should be removed if they interfere with the proper grade of the sidewalk. The additional blocks will be the responsibility of the applicant. Please contact our office should any grade changes be contemplated.
- (g) In the past, some contractors, while pouring through an adjacent blacktop driveway, have failed to form the proposed sidewalk properly and have actually poured against the "ragged" edge of the blacktop. This is both unsightly and will hinder future blacktop driveway installations. Contractors are now required to remove a portion of the blacktop drive to allow for proper form placement and to maintain the proper sidewalk width. Make sure you understand who will be responsible for replacing the removed blacktop.

**Again, be sure both you and your contractor are aware of these requirements to assure reimbursement.** Should you or your contractor have questions on these requirements, please contact this office for assistance. This office will attempt to contact known contractors in the area and advise them of these requirements but we may not be aware of them all. You should ask your contractor if they are aware of the requirements.

**This office cannot recommend any one contractor for your work but we will provide the following listing for your information. These companies have been doing the majority of work in the City:**

**Andy B. Concrete**  
2230 Lake Shore Road  
Silver Creek, NY 14136  
Phone 934-0175

**Tabone Const.**  
3712 Straight Road  
Fredonia, NY 14063  
Phone 672-6633