**May 15, 2024**

**Press Release: Berlin Town Meeting on May 21 Will Consider Sidewalks Grant Application and Funding Match**

The Town of Berlin applied to the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) for a $3.2 million Transportation Alternatives grant for a Berlin Safe Routes to School project. A Town Meeting will be held at 6:45 on May 21st at Berlin Town Hall to discuss the grant proposal and consider funding of the required $800,000 local match from the General Fund Unassigned Balance.

Berlin’s sidewalk system evolved over time, and it has missing sections that need to be built to connect many neighborhoods to key local destinations. Over the past several years, the Town has been working on integrating its sidewalk network to provide safe walking routes, focused on making better connections to the Transit Oriented Development Area around the Berlin Train Station in Kensington Village. The new application for a Transportation Alternatives Grant would provide for construction of 17,390 linear feet of missing sidewalk sections and make intersection improvements near four Berlin schools to create safe routes to school for students in nearby neighborhoods. Three of these schools, Berlin High School, McGee Middle School, and Willard Elementary School, are located within a 3⁄4-mile radius on Patterson Way and Norton Road. Hubbard Elementary School is in the East Berlin section of Town. Proposed sidewalk improvements are on Worthington Ridge, Peter Parley Row, Lower Lane, Meadow Lane, Four Rod Road, Tol Gate Road, Kensington Road, Farmington Avenue, Wilcox Avenue (East Berlin), Magnolia Lane (East Berlin), and Main Street (East Berlin). Construction of the proposed sidewalks would have many additional benefits beyond providing students with safe routes to schools. Many parks and recreational facilities are located at or near these schools and major open space areas are nearby, so this sidewalk project will provide families with safe routes to access these resources and facilities.

For questions about the project contact Jim Mahoney, Economic Development Coordinator, Town of Berlin, 860-250-0317, jmahoney@berlinct.gov

The Town Meeting will be held Tuesday May 21, 2024, at 6:45 p.m. This meeting will be held in person in the Town Council Chambers, Berlin Town Hall, 240 Kensington Road, Berlin, CT or remotely via Zoom. Additional information about the proposed sidewalks project is available in the Economic Development Department section of the Town website at berlinct.gov