Borough of Seven Fields
Ordinance # 66

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF SEVEN FIELDS, BUTLER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, REQUIRING PROPERTY OWNERS TO MAINTAIN SIDEWALKS, INCLUDING THE REMOVAL OF SNOW.

BE IT ENACTED AND ORDAINED BY the Council of the Borough of Seven Fields, Butler County, Pennsylvania

Section I. Responsibility for Construction and Maintenance of Sidewalks and Curbs

Sidewalks for the use of pedestrians shall be built and maintained by the owners of all property abutting a Borough road, in accordance with the widths, lines, grades, slopes pursuant to Borough specifications obtainable through the Borough Office. All information necessary to construct, relay or repair may be obtained at the Borough Office. Sidewalks, including all space between the property line and the curb line or vehicular driveway, even though the entire space may not be paved as a walkway for pedestrians shall always be maintained by the owner in a safe, unobstructed, level condition without abrupt variations in the surface. This safety requirement shall apply to all tree, shrubbery, structures and portable materials placed or permitted to exist under, on or in spaces between the property line and the vehicular driveway, including the adequate safeguarding of any work done within the side space. Sidewalks shall be kept clean and free of snow, ice, leaves and any other structure or substance which may obstruct the view of motorists or others or cause inconvenience or injury to pedestrians.

Section II. Snow and Ice To Be Removed from Sidewalks; Time Limit

The owner, occupant or tenant of every property fronting upon or located alongside any street in the Borough of Seven Fields is hereby required to remove or cause to be removed from all the sidewalks abutting upon such property, all snow or ice thereon fallen or formed. Within twenty-four (24) hours after the same shall have ceased to fallen to have formed. Provided: the snow and ice removed from the sidewalk shall not be dumped or piled onto any public street or alley to the extent that it interferes with vehicular traffic. Provided further, the owner of a property shall be responsible for conforming to the requirements of this Section where such property is occupied by such owner, is vacant or unoccupied or consists of more than one (1) tenanted or tenantable unit, the occupier or tenant shall be responsible therefore where such property consists of a single unit, occupied by such tenant or occupier only.

Section III. Notice to Construct, Relay or Repair Sidewalk or Curb

Notice to lay, relay or repair sidewalks or curbs shall be given to the owner, according to legal requirements, by the Borough Manager or Building Inspector. The notice to construct or relay sidewalks or curbs shall be thirty (30) days, and the notice to repair sidewalks shall be ten (10) days, except in the case of emergency repairs when it shall be forty-eight (48) hours.

Section IV. Notice to Defaulting Property Owners; Authority for Borough to Have Work Done and Collect Costs and Charges

Upon failure or neglect of any property owner to comply with the provisions of this ordinance as it pertains to the repair or relaying of sidewalk, the Borough shall give notice as provided for in Section II, hereof, to such property owner of his failure to do so and if such property owner fails to comply with such notice within the designated time limit, the Borough may cause the necessary work to be dome at the expense of said owner, and may file a lien thereon, together with all additional charges, expenses and penalties, as authorized by law, or take such other steps permitted by law to collect said coasts and charges.

Section V. Responsibility for Keeping Sidewalk Clear and In Safe and Sanitary Condition.

From and after the passage of this ordinance it shall be the duty of the occupants of property abutting on any sidewalk in the Borough and, if there are not occupants, then the owners of said property, to keep the sidewalk abutting their property free and clear from weeds, dirt, rubbish, waste paper or refuse of any kind and, in general to maintain the same in a safe and sanitary condition. Vehicles and movable sports equipment, such as basketball hoops, shall not be permitted to obstruct sidewalks. The term "sidewalk" is intended to include both the footwalk and the grassplot, if any, between said footwalk and the curb.

Section VI. Trimming of Trees and Other Plants Along and Above Sidewalks

It shall further be the duty of such occupants and owners as aforesaid at all times to keep Hedges, bushes, shrubbery and trees so trimmed as not to obstruct the sidewalk or interfere with the free and full use thereof, or with the view of motorists at and along intersecting streets; limbs of trees shall be deemed an obstruction if they are permitted to overhang the sidewalk at a height of less than seven (7) feet there from.

Section VII. Penalty for Violation

An owner, occupant or tenant who violates any section of this ordinance shall be guilty of an offense and, upon conviction thereof, shall be sentenced to pay a fine of not more than three hundred dollars ($300.00) plus costs and, in default of payment of said fine and costs, to a term of imprisonment not to exceed thirty (30) days. Such fine and costs of prosecution may be in addition to any expenses and additional amounts authorized by law.

Enacted by the Seven Fields Borough Council this 10th day of September 2001.

Charles Galbraith, Council President

Christine Wells

Christine Wells, Borough Manager

Reviewed and approved by me this 10 day of SEPTEMBER, 2001.

Bruce Richards, Mayor