Mosaic gets asphalt sidewalk

Pottstown’s first asphalt sidewalk, 95 feet long, has been installed at the Mosaic Community Garden on North Charlotte Street at Walnut Street.

The asphalt was then coated with gray epoxy to match the adjacent sidewalks.

Asphalt is the most common paving surface in Pottstown, used for streets and parking lots, but not for sidewalks until now. Pottstown sidewalks are made of concrete, which is rigid. When poured in blocks, it is prone to cracking, spalling, lifting and sinking.

When concrete blocks become uneven, either because they are lifted by tree roots or because of freezing and thawing, lips are formed that create tripping hazards.

Asphalt has none of these drawbacks. Asphalt is poured in a continuous ribbon, which means there are no seams to pop up or drop down. Because asphalt is flexible, it can bend with the ground. And it is much easier to repair than concrete.

In 2015, Pottstown Council adopted an ordinance allowing the use of flexible paving materials for sidewalks.

Many Pottstown sidewalks are also much wider than they need to be. Outside the downtown, the standard size should be four feet wide.

When the new Mosaic sidewalk was poured, excess concrete was removed along the curb and a four-foot wide planting strip with three street trees was also created.

We hope this will be a model for Pottstown sidewalks in the future.

Commentary by Tom Hylton

AFTER new coated asphalt sidewalk and trees were installed

BEFORE community garden and asphalt sidewalk were installed

COATING asphalt sidewalk