

ROAD COMMITTEE MEETING
JUNE 25, 2015

PRESENT: George Lawrence, Butch Leel, Marcus Rautiola, Ron Stanley, Peter Goewey, Joanne Meshna
PUBLIC: Virginia Notter, Wendy Freeman

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. at the Town Office.

The minutes of the March 26, 2015 meeting were reviewed and the following correction made: page 1, fourth paragraph, last sentence should read "New culverts cost approximately \$20,000." George made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Butch seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Ms. Notter stated she had been asked by Judy Spring to bring some concerns to the Committee. She asked that there be a monthly meeting of the Committee without the Selectmen. Ms. Spring did not think the Committee needed to be micromanaged. Ron responded every committee he has ever seen in the Town has a Selectman on it. Ms. Notter continued all paving last year occurred late in the season which limits the days of paving based on the temperature. To do an overlay the temperature must be above 50 degrees and adhesive should be used prior to the overlay. Last year the paving was done early October and overlays were done when the temperature was above 50 degrees. Ms. Notter referred to Mason Road and noted there were areas where the road came up. Peter replied that was a shim and tack is not put down on a shim.

George commented that Ms. Spring suggested to him the Road Agent not be a part of the Committee. Ms. Notter was not aware of that comment and stated a Road Committee without the Road Agent does not make sense.

Ms. Notter stated waiting to October to pave is a mistake. Peter responded usually it is done in September. Culverts have to be replaced first. If there was money, the culverts could be done a year in advance. Ms. Notter suggested using some of the funds from the State to hire additional services to get some of the work done sooner. Peter noted up until last year he did not have use of the funds, it was in the regular budget. The Town has also been operating on a default budget. Marcus suggested putting more money in the warrant article to hire subs to do some of the work. George added that the Department of Public Works does work for other departments which uses up some of their time.

The Committee discussed Timbertop Road. Ms. Notter noted there is a pond that forms at the end of Timbertop Road at Route 124 that freezes every winter. There is a culvert on the left hand side and asked if it was possible to shoot some water into that culvert.

Ms. Notter again asked about the Committee meeting once a month. Marcus noted it would be unproductive. Now the Committee meets in the spring and fall. Butch stated he would not be able to meet every month. George suggested the Committee meet one more time before the budget preparation.

Wendy stated she would like to see a comprehensive road plan. She suggested developing a cadence for at a minimum the roads that have already been reclaimed. She questioned what needs to be done and how often does it need to be done so she roads do not have to be reclaimed any time soon. Further, she stated if a road has a good base, the life of the road might be extended by maintenance. Those roads that do not have a good base have to go on the reclamation list but what can be done in the meanwhile to make it last 3-4 years. Wendy offered to help Peter develop a cadence of the roads and put together some figures for a budget. She added she liked the idea of hiring out for culvert work, etc.

Ron asked how much it cost to put two culverts on Poor Farm Road. Peter responded \$100 for machine and labor. The Department can probably do two to three culverts a day. Some of the bigger culverts need engineering studies.

The Committee discussed the wording of the warrant article for roads next year and that it should state repave and reconstruct.

Wendy stated to do a spreadsheet she needs from Peter cost per mile and what is the cadence for each road such as every three years crack seal, etc. Shouldering should be included in the spreadsheet.

Ron suggested money needs to be put in the budget next year to have sand hauled up from the sandpit by an independent contractor rather than using Town employees and trucks all day long. Members discussed the use of sand and salt on roads. Butch noted most towns use too much sand. Sand on gravel roads is good but not on paved roads. More and more communities are getting away from using sand altogether because of the ill effects of sand and what comes off vehicles gets into the sand. DES could find that is contaminated and the Town then then has to deal with contaminated soil versus using salt. Butch stated sand can be five to ten times more expensive than salt and the more salt you use the less sand has to be hauled. Peter added he uses sand on the 16 miles of Town gravel roads. On the paved roads he treats as soon as it starts snowing and depending on how much melts may have to add a light layer. Peter added he budgets for 400 tons.

Marcus was asked if he would include the paving contractor when hiring subs to do culverts and he responded he would. The paving contractor would probably hire someone to do it. It should not be more than \$15,000-\$20,000. Peter noted this year they are putting in 32 culverts and 12 have been put in so far.

Peter informed the Board the liquid in the asphalt has changed in the last five years; it is not as good as it was. When doing RFPs, specs can include asphalt content. Wendy suggested Peter consider what the difference would be in the cadence of the roads if a different quality of asphalt was used.

Marcus commented on the entrance to Wheeler Road and the need to have the swale be a good size. With regard to road restrictions the signs should be for spring thaw and not permanent signs.

The next meeting will be held on September 24 at 8:00 a.m. The meeting adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Meshna, Town Administrator

