

MINUTES

Ad-Hoc Committee on Rural and Scenic Roads

October 26, 2017

The second meeting of the Rural and Scenic Roads Committee was convened by its Chairman, Brad Harriman, at 4:30 PM on October 26, 2017 in the Great Hall with the following other members in attendance: Paul O'Brien; Claude Roessiger, and Blair Moody. Also attending from Town staff were Assistant DPW Director Scott Pike and Town Manager David Owen.

After determining that there was a quorum of Committee members present, Brad Harriman opened up discussion on a Mission Statement for the Committee. Paul O'Brien offered that it had to do with the Town's scenic roads, and also the Town's Class VI roads. It was suggested that the Committee members be provided with lists of the scenic and Class VI roads in town. Brad Harriman stated that if a town does maintenance on a Class VI road it turns them into a Class V road. Paul O'Brien stated the law says any town road not maintained for more than 5 years in a Class VI road. He feels that we need to clearly define Class V vs. Class VI roads.

Claude Roessiger suggested as a vision statement that we need to develop a vision, protocol and schedule for the maintenance and improvement of Wolfeboro's rural roads, with respect to budget and constraints or recommendations for investments. He suggested holding this draft mission statement until the full membership of the Committee has a chance to review it and comment upon it.

Paul O'Brien said that Dave Ford has a pretty good idea of the cost he incurs to maintain the rural roads. He went on to say that the kind of questions we should be asking are: Are we spending the right amount of money on rural roads maintenance (too much or too little)?; are we setting the right standards?; Are we using the best practices?; are we applying the right resources, etc.? Claude Roessiger offered that we could create different categories of rural roads, like dead end roads, through roads, etc. Scott Pike suggested setting standards for scenic roads first, then applying them to other rural roads. Paul O'Brien noted that paved roads have a life cycle, while unpaved roads don't, and need continued maintenance, and scenic roads need standards and best practices.

Brad Harriman reported that the Board of Selectmen had acted to double the DPW's budget for gravel, so that the DPW can better maintain the rural roads. He also noted that the Town's Roads Surfaces Management System (RSMS) is being updated by a consulting engineering firm. It was reported that the Town has a total of 65.96 miles of Town roads, of which 7.55 miles are Class VI roads, and that the town has between 12 and 14 miles of gravel Class V roads (we need to firm up that number). Blair Moody suggested identifying those sections of rural roads needing the most work. Scott Pike noted that the RSMS, when complete, will identify and address those areas.

Claude Roessiger stated that one possible conclusion that this Committee might reach is that the Town needs to invest more resources into the care of rural roads. He noted that Stoddard Road is now in the best condition that he has seen it. Paul O'Brien stated that we need to avoid widening the roads further and whacking and damaging trees with snow plows every year. Scott Pike stated that the DPW's intent is just to provide proper drainage to get rid of water and to build the roads up.

Claude Roessiger provided copies of a document entitled "The Roads of North Wolfeboro—A Conservation & Maintenance Protocol" for review and comment. He also indicated that he wants to donate cast iron drain covers and treated wooden posts for sign posts on the scenic roads. Dave Owen suggested that he submit a written request to donate these items to the Board of Selectmen and he would submit it to the Board for approval.

Brad Harriman stated that at the next Committee meeting we can look at the inventory of rural roads and discuss categorizing them and setting standards for them. The next meeting was set for December 14th at 4:30 PM. The meeting was adjourned at 5:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

David Owen, Town Manager