

## MINUTES

### Ad-Hoc Committee on Rural and Scenic Roads

December 14, 2017

The third meeting of the Rural and Scenic Roads Committee was convened by Chairman, Brad Harriman, at 4:30 PM on Thursday, December 14, 2017 in the Great Hall with the following other members in attendance: Paul O'Brien; Claude Roessiger, Blair Moody, Ben Ladd and Roger Murray. Attending from Town staff were Assistant DPW Director Scott Pike and Town Manager David Owen.

The minutes of the October 26, 2017 meeting were reviewed by the members. There being no corrections or other changes to those minutes, they were approved by consensus of the Committee members.

Relative to identifying maintenance procedures for the Town's rural roads, Clyde Roessiger suggested that we need to start writing them down. It was noted that the frequency of grading the gravel roads depends upon the amount of moisture we receive. Scott Pike stated that the Town crews only graded the gravel roads twice this year, and they use magnesium chloride on the roads and it helps a lot. Mr. Roessiger remarked that what the Town did this year with the gravel roads was very impressive, as the roads held up well.

Scott Pike stated that the Town may need to acquire a new vibratory roller, which would help with the gravel roads. He said that we should roll the roads every time we grade them. The cost of a new roller would be approximately \$80,000 or \$90,000. Presently, we have to rent a roller for about \$3,000/month.

It was noted that finding the right kind of aggregate mix for the gravel roads is getting harder to find. UNH has developed a sieve analysis for a good gravel specification, but it is not easy to obtain. Scott Pike said that a good ¾" mix is best, and that we try to use a good quality mix on all the Town roads.

Ben Ladd suggested that it may be time to consider putting a hard surface on upper Beach Pond Road. Due to the expense of properly maintaining it as a gravel road. Blair Moody said that the Town would require more right-of-way along upper Beach Pond Road to pave it and to deal with the drainage issues along it.

Roger Murray commented that the drainage structure on Brackett Road are not sufficient, and that Brackett Roads needs a crown on it and it needs to get built up.

Claude Roessiger brought the discussion back to looking at the average costs of maintaining the Town's 12 miles of gravel roads, and suggested that it might be useful to segregate the roads into two different categories: higher traffic roads, and low usage roads, for the purposes of assigning costs to them. Paul O'Brien also suggested factoring in the drainage requirements of the roads. Mr. Roessiger questioned whether the Town has a sufficient budget

to bring the rural roads up to desired standards. At this point, Brad Harriman handed out his compilation of the costs budgeted for gravel road maintenance by three other area towns and Wolfeboro by comparison. While Wolfeboro had the least miles of gravel roads of the towns compared in Mr. Harriman's information, it has the highest per mile expenditure for maintaining gravel roads. It was noted that one of the differences in the cost comparison is that some towns use calcium chloride, and others (including Wolfeboro) use magnesium chloride, which is more expensive. Scott Pike stated that he prefers to use magnesium chloride on the roads, and that it is a little less corrosive.

Brad Harriman stated that the Town is already doing most of what is required to properly maintain the roads. Clyde Roessiger said that we are all in agreement that we need to build up the roads. Ben Ladd questioned about getting the leaves out of the roads' ditches and culverts. Scott Pike stated that cleaning up the leaves along the ditches is becoming a more important part of the DPW maintenance efforts.

Roger Murray questioned about the Town's ability to find, hire and keep good quality employees in the Highway Division, and that we need to get the employees properly trained. Scott Pike said that while we have had some issues with turnover in the Department, the quality of training provided by UNH through its T-squared program is excellent, and more employees are taking advantage of that training opportunity.

Claude Roessiger suggested developing a list of specific areas along specific roads where improvements are needed or desired. Scott Pike suggested concentrating on the scenic roads first. Ben Ladd suggested the possibility of doing a survey of the residents who live along the rural roads to get their feedback and suggestions about what they would like to see improved along their rural roads.

Brad Harriman offered to develop a memorandum with suggested procedures and improvements for the rural roads in advance of the Committee's next meeting. Scott Pike distributed copies of a revised list gravel roads maintained by the Wolfeboro DPW.

The next meeting was set for January 25, 2018 at 4:30 PM. The meeting was adjourned at 5:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

David Owen, Town Manager