

## MINUTES

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

September 28, 2017

The first meeting of the Rural and Scenic Roads Committee was convened by Selectman Brad Harriman at 4:30 PM on September 28, 2017 in the Great Hall with the following additional members present: Paul O'Brien, Claude Roessiger, Blair Moody, Ben Ladd, and Roger Murray. Also attending were Scott Pike, Assistant Director of Public Works, and Dave Owen, Town Manager, from Town staff. The members introduced themselves to each other and stated the rural road that they reside on, where applicable.

Brad Harriman stated that the first task of the Committee should be to develop some goals for its work. Ben Ladd responded by stating that we need to identify the problems with the rural roads and then correct them. Claude Roessiger stated that he believes the Committee should begin with a statement of philosophy toward our rural roads. What do we want our roads to be? He stated that the Town doesn't seem to have policies for its rural and scenic roads, just practices. At this point, the Town's Gravel Road Maintenance schedule was handed out and discussed by Scott Pike. The issue of liability from defects in the Town's roads was discussed. Mr. Roessiger stated that he didn't think that the Town is exposed to much liability

Scott Pike said that the Town doesn't have enough money to do everything that is needed. He stated that he tries to treat all residents the same, and that maybe we need to have capital projects for gravel roads, just like we have capital projects for paved roads. The question of how many miles of gravel roads does Wolfeboro have was discussed, and there was some uncertainty about the answer, which was either 8 or 11. In contrast, Brad Harriman informed the group that Ossipee has 50 miles of gravel roads. Scott Pike informed the group that the Town's Road Surfaces Management System (RSMS) is being updated for the Town by an engineering firm, and that drainage is a key indicator of road health, which is why so much effort goes into installing drainage systems in road construction projects.

Ben Ladd said he would like to see a comparison of expenditures of surrounding towns on their rural roads. Claude Roessiger also would like a comparison of inputs on gravel roads. Paul O'Brien asked if we have a checklist for rural road maintenance. Blair Moody said we need to set priorities for rural road projects, and asked if we have data, like traffic counts, that could be used in setting priorities. Roger Murray stated that Brackett Road went from having potholes to being a washboard road. He also stated that the larger equipment that the DPW is using is dinging trees and causing damages. Scott Pike said that he had addressed these issues with the crews.

In summarizing the Committee's discussions thus far, Brad Harriman stated that the following goals had been identified:

- Identify problems and develop positive directions to move forward
- Maintenance procedures
- Examine the balance between new construction and road maintenance
- Differentiate between pavement management and gravel road maintenance
- Promoting employee training, especially UNH T2
- Identify a philosophy-matching the roadways to the neighborhoods

Other discussion topics were funding and comparison of other neighboring towns' budgets. These topics will be put on the agenda of the next meeting for discussion. The next meeting was set for October 26<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 PM. The meeting adjourned at 5:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

David Owen, Town Manager