

ROAD COMMITTEE MEETING

April 5, 2023

MINUTES

PRESENT: Shawn Talbot-Selectman's Liaison, Walker Farrey, Marcus Rautiola, Peter Goewey-Highway Director, Debbie Deaton-Town Administrator
Also present: Eric Krook, Derek Sells, Robert Callahan

The meeting was called to order at 3:00pm.

Peter stated some spots on a couple of roads need some work due to the winter (top mix is popping off): Davis Village Road and River Road. North Road from the highway (approximately 2000 feet, one side) needs some work also. Nate asked if there would be separation from the center line. Peter replied it shouldn't. This shouldn't cost more than \$50,000.

Nate also asked about cutting trees back while we're doing the roads. He said there are trees everywhere that interfere with plowing. Peter said he doesn't have the manpower to do it. Walker said he knows someone who can do that at a daily rate and will find out the pricing. He thinks it's about \$3,500/day.

There are a couple of trees on Wilson Hill, a lot on Hubbard Pond Road, Hakala, Old Country (scenic road, needs special permission), Niemi, Cutter, Temple, Stowell and a few other roads that need trees/brush to be removed. Walker and Nate said we should focus on the most travelled roads. Walker added drainage is also really important.

Walker said all 3 articles got approved and asked what the total is. Debbie will check into the exact total. Peter also asked what was left over from 2022 which Debbie will find out from Carlene.

Eric Krook said he doesn't think there are a lot of trees that need to be removed/trimmed on Wilson Hill. Most of the road is pretty wide open. The large tree near Jones' house needs to be removed. Nate added there are some wet spots that need to be dealt with.

Walker said Collins Road is ready for top coat. Peter added Finn Hill, Mason, bottom of Poor Farm need culverts. Hakala doesn't need much. Andrew and Nora should need minimal prep. Blueberry needs a lot of work. Peter added after May, it's just himself and Peter Somero so prep has to stay to a minimum. Peter suggested subbing out the prep for Blueberry. Derek added the end of Blueberry is horrible and falling apart.

Walker suggested they should possibly forget about the tree cutting and sub out the end of Blueberry. Wilson Hill may have to wait one more year depending on budget.

Debbie asked for a recap: Blueberry and Mason are top priority. Collins needs topcoat. Kolb will be top coated, Finn Hill and Poor Farm need culverts, Hakala needs base coat, Nora, Andrew need underdrainage, infrastructure and basecoat.

Nate asked if we needed to get bids on culverts. Peter said if we get a sub to do Blueberry, the DPW will be freed up to do culverts. Blueberry will need underdrainage, infrastructure, at least 2' of gravel in that cul de sac area. The underdrainage will tie in to the culverts. There was some discussion on grade. Peter and Walker will come up with a scope.

Peter said we will have to buy gravel this year.

Walker said there are approximately 9 roads that need to be done, some of them are fairly small.

Derek said he appreciates the effort done by the Road Committee. He just wanted to make sure he was at the meeting to find out what goes on and no one can complain if they don't come to these meetings. He is satisfied with all of the information he has received so far and can't thank the DPW and committee enough for all of their efforts. He totally understands how this works now and added he feels they don't get credit for all of the work they do.

There was a lot of discussion regarding hiring new DPW employees and the challenges that are faced in hiring, training, salaries, etc.

Debbie recapped the meeting:

Peter will put together an RFP for paving. Walker and Peter will put together an RFP for Blueberry.

Walker added if we are able to hire employees and we can do Blueberry ourselves, we can probably add Wilson Hill to the paving bid.

Walker will put together an updated spreadsheet for everyone.

The next meeting will be May 10th at 3:00pm.

At 4:06pm, Shawn made a motion to adjourn. Marcus seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Deaton
Town Administrator

Minutes approved by ROAD COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Walker Farrey: _____

Lou Guarino:  _____

Marcus Rautiola:  _____

Nate Sikkila:  _____