

Approved

Town of New Boston Road Committee Meeting June 14, 2023

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Mark Suennen	Road Committee Chairman
	George St. John	Road Committee Vice Chairman
	David Litwinovich	Road Committee Secretary
	Benji Knapp	Road Agent
	William McFadden	Select Board Ex-Officio

Guests In Attendance: Bruce McKim

Item 1: CALL TO ORDER: A regular meeting of the Road Committee was called to order by Mark Suennen at 5:30 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item 2: APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: The Committee reviewed the minutes of May 3, 2023. Bill McFadden moved to approve the minutes of May 3, 2023, as presented. Benji Knapp seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Item 3: OLD BUSINESS:

a. No Thru Trucking along Byam Road / Wilson Hill Road (Subcommittee Status):

Mark Suennen explained that the Public Safety Committee is being reinstituted by the select board. It generally consists of the Police Chief, Fire Chief, an Emergency Management representative, and the Road Agent. Bill McFadden stated that a meeting would be scheduled and that there were residents in town that were interested in participating. There was discussion that since this committee deals with public safety it would be the best entity to address the trucking issue. Bruce McKim expressed interest in being part of the committee. Bill McFadden explained that a Public Safety Committee is required by state statute and he and Bruce McKim also explained that an active Public Safety Committee allows the town to apply for grants.

b. 2023 Road Work Status:

Road Agent, Benji Knapp explained that paving/surface/chip sealing is unlikely due to budget constraints. There is a chance that the town could receive additional funds in July.

He explained that work has begun on Cemetery and Meetinghouse Roads to address drainage issues. A large tree has been cut. The project will continue with topcoat paving, and the addition of paved berms. A catch basin will be added as well. Bill McFadden asked if the design of the grate on the catch basin would be angled as opposed to flat and the road agent confirmed that it would.

A smaller drainage project is slated for Clark Hill Road. The Road Agent confirmed that this project as well as Cemetery and Meetinghouse Roads are in the budget.

The department is continuing with maintenance on roads town wide to include, but not limited to, cleaning out catch basins and grading dirt roads.

Work on Christie Road is on the radar but there will be significant cost.

The Road Agent is weighing the option of hiring a contractor for roadside mowing or renting a tractor and having the highway department do the work. At the moment it looks like the latter may be more cost efficient.

Item 4: 2024 ROAD WORK PLANNING: Road Agent, Benji Knapp explained that a lot of open base coat was put down over recent years. It is important that these roads receive topcoat in the next few years. It is his opinion that Old Coach Road needs work. He would like to chip seal the whole length of road to the Francestown line. This would extend the life of the road another 6-8 years.

Mark Suennen asked the members of the committee if there were any roads they were concerned about. Bill McFadden asked how Bedford Road was holding up. The Road Agent stated that Bedford Road would be a good candidate for chip sealing. George St. John mentioned that Bedford Road is heavily used at all hours of the day and night.

The Road Agent would like to put money into the gravel roads in town when possible to lessen issues during mud season.

Mark Suennen put together a list of roads the committee had talked about a few years ago. The list included Tucker Mill Road, Molly Stark Lane, Robie Road, Bog Brook Road, Christie Road, Inkberry Road, Lull Road near 77 and Gregg Mill, Styles Road, and Parker Road. The Road Agent stated that Bog Brook Road and Parker Road were in need of work. Mark Suennen asked the other committee members to take note of the conditions of roads as they drive about town so the committee can prioritize and put some cost to the road work needed. This is so the committee as a whole can explain to residents that \$85K annually in the paving budget is insufficient to maintain the roads in town.

Item 5: NEW BUSINESS:

a. Consider RSMS Warrant Article for 2024?

The committee discussed whether the cost of a RSMS system should be put in a warrant or worked into the existing highway budget. The committee also will clarify the exact cost to the town. The committee agrees that this is a good idea.

b. Glass as Aggregate Policy Discussion

The Road Agent is willing to use glass as aggregate that is generated by New Boston but is not in favor of taking glass in from other towns. Bill McFadden stated that he fears we are going to end up with a huge mound of the aggregate but no use for it. The Road Agent feels the highway department could use up the aggregate New Boston generates but it is not a given. He is willing to work with the Transfer Station. Mark Suennen stated the next step would be to develop a policy if the town is going to move forward. Bill McFadden asked if this material could be used in improving some of the dirt roads in town. The Road Agent stated he would be nervous about using the aggregate on dirt roads. George St. John expressed concern regarding the use of aggregate and its perception. Mark Suennen reiterated that if the town decides to move forward that a policy and procedures should be developed. David Litwinovich asked for clarification that although this technology has been in place for more than a couple of decades, new uses of this aggregate have not been developed. The Road Agent confirmed this.

c. Other Business

David Litwinovich stated that he feels ongoing maintenance on dirt roads does help alleviate some of the issues during mud season. The Road Agent talked about the importance of drainage and plowing when it comes to alleviating road issue. The Road Agent is looking into better ways of dispensing liquid calcium.

Item 6: NEXT MEETING DATES: July 12 and September 13. No meeting in August.

Item 7: ADJOURNMENT: Benji Knapp moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:17 PM. Bill McFadden seconded. All were in favor.

Prepared by David Litwinovich

**Next Scheduled Meeting: July 12, 2023
Town Hall Conference Room
7 Meetinghouse Hill Road- New Boston, NH 03070
Phone: (603) 487-2500-www.newbostonnh.gov**