

Approved

Town of New Boston Road Committee Meeting September 14, 2022

PRESENT:

David Litwinovich
Mark Debowski
George St. John

Select Board member
Road Committee Chairman
Road Committee

Guests In Attendance: Town Administrator Paul Branscombe, Finance Director Jennifer Allocca, Highway Department Foreman Charlie Byam

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

The Committee reviewed a handout from the Highway Department of the status of roads improved during the 2022 paving season and a list of culverts to be done in the area of Middle Branch Road. The Committee looks forward to more information from the Highway Department to create an estimate of these culvert improvement costs in preparation for the 2023 budget and voting season. The Committee also looks forward to seeing the Road Agent's future plans for town roads in writing to use along with the Road Assessment prepared by Mark Debowski in 2021 to prepare budgets/possible CIP submission, as was the intent for this meeting.

Paul and Charlie noted they have been traveling town roads investigating complaints of drainage issues caused by gaps left in front of driveways during the paving process and causing the Highway Department to return to the area to place more material. Continental Paving will be asked to complete these areas better. The Committee noted hiring an asphalt inspector could help this process to make sure all tasks are completed during the paving process.

Paul noted he has been reviewing Cemetery Road with Town Engineer Kevin Leonard who will prepare a report on how to improve drainage in the downtown area.

The Committee wants to ensure that roads that received a paving binder in 2022 receive the appropriate topcoat in 2023. Jennifer noted that the Highway Block Grant funds that are usually used for this purpose may not be available in 2023 as these funds are planned to be used for the Dougherty Lane bridge project along with some additional bridge aid funds that have been received. A special Warrant Article or the paving budget line may need to be used for paving in 2023.

The Bedford Road culvert may also need a Warrant Article in 2023. The Dougherty Lane bridge project could cost approximately \$600,000-800,000. Jennifer distributed a handout detailing funding for planned road projects. The town has a bridge CRF containing over \$300,000 of which over \$200,000 was earmarked for the Tucker Mill Road bridge that is now being 80% funded from NH's Municipally Owned Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (MOBIL) bill as part of

President Biden's Build Back Better plan. A Warrant Article is being considered to pave Middle Branch Road, but engineering and research is needed before this Article is placed on the Warrant.

Jennifer noted she has been researching town road maintenance over the years with the Highway Department Crew Chief and learned an RSMS software program was used on a laptop in 2012 in conjunction with students from UNH. The laptop is currently missing, but it is hoped to be found. Kathie was able to recover a spreadsheet/10-year plan that was derived from the RSMS system. Jennifer distributed the spreadsheet to the Committee which lists each road, how long it was, maintenance plans and approximate costs. Roads have changed since then and some dirt roads at the time have been paved and the Road Crew has concerns that the data input into the software may be inaccurate although the data is a good guide. The students are no longer entering the data, any further data would have to be entered by someone else. David asked if GIS would have some of this functionality. Jennifer has also discussed it with Town Engineer Kevin Leonard who noted that the state only inspects bridges 10' long or more and the town is responsible for shorter bridges. This data is compiled in binders at the Highway Department and hoped to be entered into GIS when it becomes available in New Boston and then entered into a document or software. The binders also need to be updated according to the maintenance the Road Crew has been performing. Mark Debowski will research what UNH is currently doing and the possibility of an intern to help out with updating information kept at the Highway Department.

Line Striping: Charlie noted a quote has come in at \$18,000 for some roads including Bedford Road, Byam Road, McCurdy Road, Joe English Road and Francestown Turnpike. The same company that was used last year is planned to be used although there are concerns with their method.

The Road Agent plans to replace the missing "No Through Trucking" sign at the bottom of Byam Road. Chief Brace is confirming where it should be placed. There are many signs missing around town especially the stop and town line signs. George noted Trucking should be considered when accepting federal funds for roads as trucking may not be allowed to be restricted on a road funded with federal funds.

Minutes of the August meeting will be reviewed for approval at the October meeting.

Next Meeting Date

The Committee plans to meet on Wednesday, October 26 at 5:30 PM. Charlie plans to attend.

ADJOURNMENT: Mark Debowski moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 PM. Seconded. Approved.

Prepared by Maralyn Segien

**Next Scheduled Meeting: Wednesday, October 26, 2022 at 5:30 PM
Town Hall Conference Room
7 Meetinghouse Hill Road- New Boston, NH 03070**

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