

# Approved

## Town of New Boston Road Committee Meeting January 8, 2020

<b><u>PRESENT:</u></b>	Karen Scott	Selectman
	Denis Pinard	Road Committee
	Mark Suennen	Road Committee
	Rodney Towne	Road Committee
	Dick Perusse	Road Agent

**A. CALL TO ORDER:** A regular meeting of the Road Committee was called to order by Karen Scott at 5:34PM.

**Item 1: Approval of Minutes of November 6, 2019:** The Committee reviewed the minutes of November 6, 2019. Mark Suennen moved the minutes of November 6, 2019 be accepted as presented. Denis Pinard seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion carried. The Committee will review the December 4, 2019 at home and they will be posted. Maralyn Segien is preparing minutes by reviewing the Town Hall Streams videos and sending them to Town Administrator Peter Flynn once they are prepared. He will then distribute the minutes to the Committee for review and approval. Peter will then direct Maralyn to post the minutes.

**Item 2: Nomination of Officers:** Karen is present as Selectmen's Representative and will perform secretarial duties other than minutes. Dick is present as the Road Agent. They are not voting members, they are ex-officio. Other members can serve as Chairman or Vice Chairman to be nominated at the February meeting.

The Committee considered its mission/purpose/goals. Karen will e-mail a draft Mission Statement to the members for review and revision. The members noted it should be revised as the Committee is advisory to the Selectmen who manage the Road Agent and Highway Department. Dick noted the previous Road Committee would meet with or write to the Selectmen when the Committee agreed upon a potential project.

Agenda format for future meetings was discussed.

The Committee discussed developing a maintenance list. Dick explained in the past the Committee discussed projects that needed to be done or that it wanted to be done and the direction to go to accomplish it. One area where a schedule/list exists is in CIP where \$85,000 per year is planned for road projects. In 2020 a Hooper Hill Road project is planned with CIP and budget funds including tree cutting, adding drainage, repairing the road. The Highway Department has been able to keep project costs low by saving on labor doing many tasks themselves, avoiding hiring subcontractors and negotiating/researching reasonable prices whenever possible. Rodney noted some years nothing is done to save the annual \$85,000 from CIP and adding it to the next year for a larger project. Denis noted \$85,000 per year seems low

considering the 100 miles of roads to maintain in New Boston. Dick noted this amount was determined many years ago before he became Road Agent. The Committee will review the Highway Department budget worksheets. When the Committee has determined a plan to upgrade town roads, Mark noted the Committee should explain this to the community if more funds are needed. The Committee would present it to the Selectmen for budget purposes.

Denis asked Dick if he has a map/list classifying all town roads as dirt, gravel and paved and all culverts. Dick noted the only map available shows dirt and paved roads. Karen will get the electronic version of the map for Denis to get printed and the Committee will use that to make notes on. Rodney noted if the town gets GIS mapping system the locations Denis asked for can be added to the maps. Denis would be interested in helping with this.

The Committee discussed road counts and vehicle speeds noted on roads from the Jamar devices the Police Department has begun using. They asked if some of the high speeds noted by the device could be emergency personnel responding to an emergency. Rodney noted that is unacceptable even in an emergency.

Karen noted she met with Fire Chief Dan MacDonald Monday where they discussed roads where the most emergency calls/transport/access is needed. Dan will get that information to Karen by the next Committee meeting along with secondary routes/access. Tom Miller created this document in the past and Dan will contact him to see if he still has it. Dan also said he would make a list of any roads he may have current or potential concerns about for emergency vehicle access.

Mark reviewed the information he gathered about the fifteen New Boston count stations from a database on the NHDOT website done by SNHPC. Some counts are recent such as 2017 and 2018 but some roads have not been counted since 2002 or 1999. He will send the files to Karen to distribute to the Committee to use as they consider potential road needs. He noted SNHPC will contact the Selectmen in February or March requesting locations to count in 2020. The Road Committee and Road Agent can consider locations that should be counted. Counts are also done by other private companies. The Highway Department has an outdated device that needs parts that it doesn't use often that only counts and doesn't give any other data. The Police Department also has the Jamar device that provides more information that might be helpful.

Rodney distributed a copy of an e-mail from Lee Brown about the condition of Briar Hill Road and outlining a complex fix of this old road that is not heavily traveled. The Committee discussed the condition of the road and noted the pavement is disintegrating, there are drainage issues and large trees against the pavement that would have to be removed. There is also a bad intersection in the area.

Denis proposed the Committee go out to review troubled roads in preparation for the spring maintenance season and asked Dick what he needs the Committee to do. Mark suggested making a list of the top five roads that need work and start explaining the needs to the community. He also suggested listing roads that need just a little work and investment to improve that could be done now to remove from the concern list.

Dick explained the previous ten-year plan, that started with Riverdale Road (a section was upgraded when the bridge was redone), then considered Middle Branch Road (a costly project) and Christie Road (has been surveyed already), Meetinghouse Hill Road, Bedford Road near Foxberry Road. Projects are presented to the town in a Warrant Article, a project for Hooper Hill Road is planned for 2020, but has already been postponed a couple years causing subsequent projects to be delayed. Rodney noted an issue with the ten-year plan was other roads were falling apart and needed maintenance before plans for roads that had already been considered could move forward. This and funding level prevented the ten-year plan projects from getting done.

Rodney explained there was a paving schedule, but it was discontinued as some roads on the schedule did not need paving at the scheduled time. There is a separate budget line of \$349,946 for paving that also includes cracksealing and materials needed during paving.

The Committee noted that if a repair is made to an area where a motor vehicle accident occurred, the repair costs may be reimbursed by insurance.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 6:49 PM.

*Prepared by Maralyn Segien*

**Next Scheduled Meeting: Town Hall Conference Room on February 10, 2020 (5:30 PM)  
7 Meetinghouse Hill Road- New Boston, NH 03070  
Phone: (603) 487-5504-[www.newbostonnh.gov](http://www.newbostonnh.gov)**