

Approved

Town of New Boston Road Committee Meeting November 3, 2021

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Karen Scott	Selectman
	Mark Suennen	Road Committee
	Mark Debowski	Road Committee
	Mark Siemiesz	Road Committee

Guests In Attendance: Road Agent Allen Brown.

Item 1: CALL TO ORDER: A regular meeting of the Road Committee was called to order by Mark Debowski at 6:00PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes of September 29, 2021: The Committee reviewed the minutes of September 29, 2021. Mark Suennen moved to approve the minutes of September 29, 2021 as amended. Mark Siemiesz seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Old Business:

Recruitment of Additional Road Committee Members

This request was posted on the town website and Facebook on October 5.

Perma-Zyme Product-Allen Brown was going to test a few more roads

Karen reported documents were provided to the Committee. Road Agent Allen Brown was present and noted there is no update. The dirt on the tested road was too clean for the product to work, clay would have to be added but Allen is hesitant to do that. Another location will be sampled soon to hopefully be able to place the perma-zyme next year. Allen will keep the Committee posted on the progress of this option as the Committee is interested in it.

Roads That Need Additional Travel Data-Mark Debowski

Mark Debowski noted he reviewed the data he received and it seems adequate. Additional traffic data is not needed at this time but, if any is collected, he is interested in reviewing it.

Line Striping

Lines have been striped on several roads. Line striping was reviewed. Edge/fog lines are not planned at this time. The Committee considered requesting edge/fog lines for areas such as Bedford Road. Karen asked why Lull Road was striped as it was never striped before. It was noted this improves safety on that road, helping to keep travelers on the appropriate side of the road.

Culverts-Mark Suennen's Research

The Committee reviewed a report of Bedford Road culvert replacement services (at intersection of Foxberry Road) from the Town Engineer who is working on this project with NH DES. There

is no work occurring at this location currently. A box culvert is now planned per NH DES recommendation. The Road Committee requested the Selectboard confirm the status of this project with the Town Engineer, its design, when it will be ready to put out to bid and funding. Allen noted funding is available for the originally planned concrete culvert as it is in stock at the Highway Department, but the plan has changed to a box culvert. Allen will discuss this tomorrow with the Town Engineer and follow up with Karen. A box culvert could cost approximately \$100,000 more than the concrete culvert. There may be approximately \$60,000 left in the 2021 culvert budget line that the Selectboard could encumber toward this project.

Mark Suennen has been researching town culverts. Allen provided three binders containing information on town culverts that Mark will review, digitize and return to Allen. Mark discussed this with SNHPC who evaluated all culverts in several NH towns, including New Boston, and gave each culvert a score according to its vulnerability. From that survey, New Boston was found to have five to eight of the top 100 most vulnerable culverts in southern NH. Mark will research a plan for the next ten years to address these most vulnerable culverts in New Boston. The Committee looks forward to an update at the next meeting.

Tree Cutting

Mark Suennen reported he has researched and e-mailed companies that cut trees for Eversource and has heard back from the following. These are Lewis Tree Service, John Brown and Sons and Northern Tree Services. These companies are certified by Eversource. Allen noted qualified companies need to cut trees between wires. He has scheduled John C. Brown and Sons is planned to cut some trees on River Road and one on Colburn Road. Allen is preparing a \$50,000 tree cutting budget request for the 2022 operating budget. Mark noted public hearings are needed to remove trees on scenic roads unless the tree is an imminent danger.

Review Of Road Paving Completed And Budget Spent In 2021

The Committee reviewed information provided by Allen including the paving report. Currently, there is \$62,084 remaining in the 2021 paving budget. Lyndeborough Road paving is pending and approximately \$50,000 is anticipated to be leftover from the 2021 paving budget. Karen is concerned as the entire 2021 and previously leftover Highway Block Grant funds were spent as there is no funds available for cutting trees and topcoats. Allen noted the paving was a good use of the funds and there were no funds for tree cutting.

Paving at 2nd NH Turnpike was reviewed. It was paved from Lyndeborough Road to the Mont Vernon town line.

Mark Debowski reviewed roads the Committee previously recommended for topcoats to preserve them: McCurdy Road, Tucker Mill Road, Molly Stark Lane, Robie Road and Joe English Road. Mark will estimate how much these could cost and send the information to Allen who will try to get these topcoated in 2021, weather permitting.

Allen noted work needed on the following roads:

- McCurdy and Joe English Roads need additional improvements.
- Middle Branch Road could be rebuilt and paved, some drainage improvements were made in 2019 and three or four more drainage crossings still need to be changed. Mark

Suennen recommended engineering in this area to make sure the improvements are done right before the road is paved.

- Summit Drive, Kennedy Lane and other subdivision roads could be topcoated to keep them together.
- Mowing is needed around drainage ponds as these have not been maintained. This could be part of the tree cutting project. He asked a contractor to consider this.

The 2022 paving budget has not yet been finalized. The 2022 paving budget request is planned to include approximately \$220,000 from the Highway Block Grant and \$350,000 from the operating budget paving line. Mark Debowski reviewed paving estimates he prepared. There is a separate budget line for culverts. The first Finance Committee meeting is tomorrow. The Highway Department budget is planned to be reviewed at the December 2, 2021 Finance Committee meeting.

Allen recommends a paving budget of approximately \$1 million per year for three years to improve New Boston roads then decrease the annual paving budget. This seems unlikely in the current voting climate although the town is growing. Byam Road may need restructuring when the current pavement starts deteriorating although it is expected to remain in good condition for several years.

Karen noted the following concerns:

- She has observed dirt washing onto properties from Byam Road. Allen noted this is expected due to the grade of the road and the heavy rain occurred the day after the road was paved and the shoulder material placed. Mark Debowski will review this situation and provide feedback.
- Speeding has been noted on newly paved roads. The police department is now monitoring these roads more often.

New Business

Review Of 2022 Recommendations

Some roads will need a topcoat in 2022 and additional roads are hoped to be paved. He will prioritize roads to be paved in 2022 as Tier 1,2 and 3 send the information to Allen before he meets with the Finance Committee. Tier 1 roads need topcoat for the base placed this year, Tier 2 are roads that are prioritized with funding available/preventative maintenance, Tier 3 roads that need full reconstruction.

Plan For 2023 Recommendations – Developed By April 2022

The Committee plans to consider this further and complete it by April 2022.

Other:

The Committee suggested beginning to evaluate culverts and bridges. Mark Suennen offered to obtain some information.

Allen noted the Highway Department is working preparing for winter, getting trucks ready and roads graded.

Allen reported the Lyndeborough Road Bridge Project is progressing. The footings were placed incorrectly but this was reviewed by the Town Engineers who determined they are strong enough and can remain in place.

Karen noted she has heard concerns about road damage and safety from heavy truck traffic in the residential areas of Lull and Byam Roads. The Committee will review this issue at a future meeting. She has been to the area a few times and noticed quite a few heavy trucks passing by. She reviewed the previous town actions as it was previously determined one contractor was traveling this area. The town worked with the contractor to limit the travel to certain days. The contractor seems to be complying but there are now more contractors traveling the area with heavy trucks and this issue seems to need to be addressed again. Mark Debowski noted concern of heavy trucks going over the Gregg Mill Bridge from Lull Road to Byam Road as they may exceed the posted weight limit. Karen will research this issue. Allen also noted taxing of the heavy trucking industry contributes significantly to the Highway Block Grant funds the town receives. Through Trucking is not allowed on Bedford Road without Selectboard approval but some heavy trucks have been observed through trucking.

The Committee thanked Allen for attending and welcomed him to future meetings.

Next Meeting Date

Wednesday, December 1, 8, or 15 at 6pm

The Committee will meet December 1, 2021 at 6:00 PM.

ADJOURNMENT: Mark Debowski moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:56 PM. Mark Siemiesz seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion carried.

Prepared by Maralyn Segien

**Next Scheduled Meeting: Town Hall Conference Room on December 1, 2021 (6:00 PM)
7 Meetinghouse Hill Road- New Boston, NH 03070
Phone: (603) 487-2500-www.newbostonnh.gov**