

**HYDE PARK ROADS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
June 8, 2015**

*All minutes are draft until approved by the Committee;
please check future minutes for approval of these minutes.*

Members Present: Brian Jones, Troy Hayford, Mike Dubie, Greg Paus
Members Absent: Jim Heath
Others Present: Ron Rodjenski, Town Administrator; Jim Fontaine (Diggins Rd), Craig Myotte (Morrisville Water & Light); Nancy Tingle (Tingle Rd); Dave Wilcox, State of Vermont Forest Division; Victor Veve (Diggins Rd – cabin)

Ron opened the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

1. **Craig Myotte** – Craig introduced himself and explained that FERC has listed the dam as a “high hazard” dam which requires regular winter maintenance of the access road for inspections and repairs. Craig felt that MWL would need to plow the road if the town does not. He would like to see some property tax credit given so it is a zero sum change to the utility. Craig understands that the committee is looking at costs and maybe once a week plowing would be acceptable to both parties. Craig does not feel that MWL should acquire 100% of the costs, which doesn’t seem appropriate. Mike Dubie said that they do skip plowing from time to time, but they need to keep it well-maintained overall to prevent build up of snow and icing. Mike stated that Green River Dam Road is the last one on the snow removal route. Craig noted that FERC needs to know that MWL can respond in an emergency and MWL has no snow equipment in sufficient condition to get in there on a regular basis. Craig stated that the dam operations require two inspections per week. Victor stated that the importance of the dam safety for the community should result in good road maintenance to insure proper inspections and safe emergency response to the dam. Craig thanked everyone for the invitation to comment.
2. **Victor Veve, Diggins Road** – Victor stated that he and Rick Fearing have gradually improved the Class 4 road portion and he would like to live there someday. Victor stated that adding a year-round home would increase the taxes to help maintain the road. Victor would like to see the road maintained for the State Park and others in the area, including as an access to the back (north) side of the reservoir. He would like to see year-round road maintenance extended to his property past the driveway to Corey Hathaway’s house. Mike Dubie stated that extending plowing past the dry hydrant location has not been mentioned before to the Committee. Dave Wilcox works for the State forest division – they would like to see the Class 4 road continued to be maintained for public access to the State Park parcel however, the last section on state land could be reclassified to a trail to then prohibit unauthorized motorized vehicles on the state land, while not limiting non-motorized public access.
3. **Policy and Recommendations Discussion** –
 - a. **Road List #7 – Diggins Road – Continued** – Jim Fontaine noted that 6 lots are available in the Gilbert Subdivision. Victor stated that he has upgraded the Class 4 portion but he could not continue to upgrade the road, then maintain it year-round and still build a house.
 - b. **Legal Issues** – Do the two Diggins Road subdivisions have any vested rights to a zoning permit for construction of homes? Can existing landowners help pay for the road improvements? Greg Paus read some notes from Paul Gillies meeting with the Committee where he confirmed that landowners do not have the unrestricted right to access any town road and the Selectboard has the ability to determine the level of maintenance, reconstruction needs and classification of town highways. Ron will contact Fire Chief Ed Webster for comment or attendance at the July meeting.
 - c. **Recommendations** – Mike Dubie recommended that all five committee members be present before discussing final Selectboard recommendations. Greg restated that the

recommendations should be fair and consistent across the various situations. Nancy suggested that the landowners on the Road List that are not aware of this effort be invited to a meeting of the Committee. Nancy stated that she could not sell their house now while not knowing if Tingle Road will remain a public road as it has been for the past 36 years. Nancy felt that the home values would be reduced if changed to a private road which means less tax to the town. Jim Fontaine suggested that if the Committee uses the “3 houses or less” standard to determine eligibility for year-round Class 3 maintenance, for example, then all roads with 3 or less should be on the Road List. Brian Jones stated that the public benefit and public good is important and the Selectboard needs to look at the entire highway system, noting for example, that the costs of paved roads are exceeding the funds available each year. Ron will send out an invitation to the landowners on the Road List that have not yet participated in committee discussions.

4. **Other Business** – None.
5. **Minutes** – Approval of the April 13th and May 11th minutes deferred to the next meeting.
6. **Next Regular Monthly Meeting** – Monday, July 13, 2015 at 4:30 p.m., Municipal Offices. Continue to work on policies and recommendations and possibly meet with Fire Chief Ed Webster.
7. **Adjourn** – Motion by Troy to adjourn at 5:42 p.m., with no objection, so adjourned.