

**HYDE PARK ROADS COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
December 8, 2014**

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

**Members Present:** Greg Paus, Mike Dubie, Brian Jones, Troy Hayford  
**Members Absent:** Jim Heath  
**Others Present:** Ron Rodjenski, Town Administrator; Jim Fontaine – Diggins Road

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

1. **General Matters** – Ron and Brian reviewed the road discussion that occurred at the 11-13-2014 Selectboard monthly meeting which resulted in the possibility that some private road lots may have transferred with inaccurate access information. The involved attorneys may have title insurance to cover the cost of completing the developer's promise to make Mason Road and Hemingway Road public roads; with deeds and survey offered to the town. The offer was never completed but some lots may have transferred with "access to a public road", when the roads were never made public, except the first 500 feet of Mason Road. The Selectboard requested that Paul Gillies, Esq. review the possible next steps on the four private roads referred to them in the 06-23-2014 Committee memo.
2. **Road List** - Ron handed out an updated draft of the committee's working "Roads List", last revised 12-03-2014, which now includes two new roads – Powers Road, TH#42 off Center Road (a very short 0.05 miles or 264 foot Class 4) and the discontinued portion of Fitch Hill Road, TH#60, which may still be publicly maintained. The Class 3 portion of Fitch Hill Road is 0.49 miles in length, about 2,590 feet, and it was assumed to match the paved portion. Presently, the highway crew plows past the end of pavement and turns around on the private property of Mr. Gibbons. It was suggested that town roads serving three or less homes be added to the Roads List since the definition of road in town bylaws is four or more homes. A concern that some public roads serving 3 or less homes have expensive culverts or bridges so if failure occurs, all taxpayers would pay for the replacement. It was suggested that rather than discontinuance, those roads could be reclassified to Class 4 if there was some public benefit identified. However, the public benefit of these "driveways" was still a question. Existing active farms needing milk truck access and also located on these "less than 4" might be allowed a longer timeframe before losing year round town maintenance. Milk trucks and former dairy operations were a primary reason for the current long list of short roads to one house, and many of these town roads only have one home and some have no year-round use along the road but receive town plowing services anyway. Marcoux Road and East Johnson Road could be added to the Roads List since they are basically town plowed "driveways" depicted as Class 3 town roads on the Official Town Highway Map.
3. **Town Policies and Recommendations to the Selectboard** – The committee felt that they had developed a sufficient list of roads with data on each to now focus on whether new town policies were needed to address the various situations. The policies, if needed, would then be forwarded to the Selectboard for consideration before they make any changes to the current town maintenance practices or reclassify roads. It was agreed that prior to moving forward on policies or recommendations, that the committee should meet with Paul Gillies, Esq. to assist in understanding the legal issues related to road reclassification and changes to current town maintenance practices. The committee's recommendations to the Selectboard would include Mr. Gillies' advice. Ron explained that Mr. Gillies' work day is primarily in the morning hours so a special committee meeting could be setup at 9:00 a.m.
4. **Minutes** – Motion by Troy to approve the 10-13-2014 minutes, as written. Seconded by Mike. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 against, motion passed. Motion by Troy to approve the 11-10-2014 minutes, as written. Seconded by Mike. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
5. **Other Business** – None
6. **Next Regular Monthly Meeting** – January 12, 2014 at 4:30 p.m.
7. **Adjourn** – Motion by MD to adjourn at 4:25 p.m., no objection.