

**HYDE PARK ROADS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
February 9, 2015**

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

Members Present: Greg Paus, Brian Jones, Troy Hayford
Members Absent: Mike Dubie, Jim Heath
Others Present: Ron Rodjenski, Town Administrator; Jim Fontaine, Corey Hathaway, Rob Alvino, , George Fearing – Diggins Road; Nancy Tingle – Tingle Road; J.B. McKinley – McKinistry Hill Road; Beverly Potter – Mason Road and Howard Beskin

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

1. **Public Comment** – JB McKinley asked that the committee work with the Selectboard to correct the spelling of McKinistry Hill Road which is now signed as McKinstry – with no “second i “. Brian Jones said he would mention the request to the Selectboard. JB left the meeting.
2. **Review of Paul Gillies meeting** – Greg noted, and Troy agreed, that the attorney comments were very useful and clear. The comments will enable the committee to move on to recommendations. Troy asked that the recommendation discussion be moved to March so all five members can participate.
3. **Minutes** – Motion by Troy to approve the January 12, 2015 minutes, as written. Seconded by Greg Paus, so voted.
4. **Landowner Comments** – Beverly Potter from **Mason Road** wanted to confirm, based on the attorney comments, that Mason Road was a town highway. Rodjenski confirmed that because of the consistent and long-term public maintenance, Mason Road was an ‘unclassified town highway’. Brian Jones stated that the Selectboard could require landowners to complete improvements at their cost, including deed preparation, in order to complete the formal road acceptance process. Greg noted that Paul Gillies gave an example of continuing maintenance but providing 5 years for landowners to complete the improvements and deeds. Beverly asked if ATV use was now allowed and Rodjenski stated that the ordinance only allows ATV use on Class 3 and 4 gravel roads and does not specify “unclassified town highways”. Beverly Potter stated that she bought land on a town road, per the information presented to her at the time, and now home businesses are located on the roads requiring good road maintenance. Beverly asked that existing businesses be added to the reasons to keep maintaining the road as a town highway. Rick Fearing from **Diggins Road** asked that the annualized maintenance costs be recalculated for the Class 3 and the Class 4 portions of road. Rob Alvino provided photographs taken last weekend of firefighters using his dry hydrant/pond at the top of the hill to provide water for a cabin fire on Black Dog Lane. Rob reported that on-scene firefighters felt that his dry hydrant served a large area of town with 50 or more homes and that it should be made available 24/7. Rob recommended that it be maintained year-round as at Class 3 standards. Jim Fontaine stated that the Green River Development was required to install the pond to serve the yet to be built residential subdivision (Kusserow) and Darrel Mansfield and Mark Chauvin were the ones working on meeting the town DRB requirements. Jim Fontaine noted that the committee should be evaluating the public good, taxes paid and other town interests when making recommendations to the Selectboard. Greg agreed that looking at future development along a road and existing public facilities is important. Greg noted that the attorney relayed an example of using “seven developed lots” as a threshold for public good before the town considers it for inclusion as a town highway, but the committee has been using four or more. Rick Fearing noted that the state is installing a new gate on Diggins Road, closer to the homes located east of the dry hydrant. Nancy Tingle from **Tingle Road** noted that nearby Sylvan Drive has a hydrant serving the three homes on Sylvan and her home. Nancy stated that ending town maintenance would increase the fire risk to their properties, especially if fire services could not access the hydrant. Brian Jones noted that in order to reduce the liability for all taxpayers, the town should clarify through deeds the ownership of roads and the committee’s work is not just about maintenance costs. Nancy stated that she understands the need to clean up the past but it seems like property owners like her are now being punished after 35 years. Nancy asked if some roads could be grand-

fathered in if they are found to have been acting in good faith. Beverly Potter agreed stating that she feels she bought property on a town road and is now being punished because a developer didn't complete the road offer. She feels the developer should pay and the town should deal directly with the developer.

5. **Road List** – The Committee reviewed the road list which now includes 28 roads for discussion with the roads being broken up into six main categories. Ron will add Old Farm Road, TH 42, to the list and make the edits requested by Rick Fearing on annualized maintenance costs. Roads accessing a dry hydrant will also be highlighted.
6. **Other Business** – None
7. **Next Regular Monthly Meeting** – Monday, March 9, 2015 at 4:30 p.m., Municipal Offices. Guest: Susan Bulmer and Ed O'Leary from State Forest, Parks & Recreation regarding the state park and highway access.
8. **Adjourn** – Motion by Troy to adjourn at 5:30 p.m., with no objection.