

**HYDE PARK ROADS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
March 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, Mike Dubie, Jim Heath
Members Absent: None
Others Present: Ron Rodjenski, Town Administrator; Jim Fontaine, Corey Hathaway, Theresa Farquharson and Beverly Potter – Mason Road; Susan Bulmer, VT State Parks; David Gagnier, Bob Malbon.

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

1. **Public Comment** – Ron reported that Peggy Smith contacted him earlier today and offered to work with the town on signing any legal documents to transfer Mason Road and Hemingway Road to the Town. However, Peggy also stated that the former corporation that developed the subdivision, Battle Row Associates, is dissolved and they have no funds to contribute to the effort to official accept the roads as town highways. Bev Potter offered that the corporation is still on the State website as “inactive”.
2. **Minutes** – Motion by Troy to approve the December 14, 2014 minutes and the February 15, 2015 minutes, as written. Seconded by Greg Paus, so voted with Mike Dubie abstaining from the February minutes vote and Jim Heath abstaining from the December minutes vote.
3. **State Park Access** – Susan Bulmer, Northeast Parks Manager, oversees the Green River State Park in addition to 14 other state parks. There are a total of 55 state parks. Susan was present to discuss the State’s interest in the two public roads now serving the State Park; **Green River Dam Road** to the camping facilities and boat access, as well as the Morrisville Water and Light hydro dam, and **Diggins Road** which provides access to the state forest lands west and north of the reservoir. Susan has been involved with Green River State Park since its inception. Susan provided attendance figures for day use and camping with a relatively stable annual number of visitors at about 12,000. The state park’s long-term management plan includes a goal to reclassify the current Class 4 section of Diggins Road to a trail but only the section within the State Park. The State would also adjust the location and possible design of the gate at the state park boundary. Dave Gagnier asked about the Lepine parcel and their existing access across state land to their camp. Susan agreed to work with the Lepine’s and Dave to improve the gate/lock issue which has not been ideal over the years suggesting that cross-easements would be the best way to resolve the access issues for both parties. Dave asked about adding signage on the gate to prevent cars from blocking the gate used to gain access to Lepine’s camp. Susan stated that she could do that, but couldn’t guarantee how long the signs would remain due to vandalism, etc. Susan will continue the conversation with Dave as she gets more information on the cross-easements and signage. Dave noted that Diggins Road provides fire fighting access to the interior of the park and northerly toward the town of Eden. Susan noted that the State would keep the road in good enough repair to provide forestry access. Corey asked about any state funding assistance for Diggins Road and Susan advised that there is no state budget money for local road improvements. Susan stated that the State Park has a conservation easement that prohibits public motorized vehicles within the Park. Susan noted that the Green River Dam Road is in good condition especially after the town’s recent work to widen the lanes and remove ledge. Susan

agreed to review existing roadside signage to better direct visitors to use Route 15/Garfield Road and away from the Diggins Road access, especially since there is no water access or camping sites accessed via Diggins Road. Mike Dubie stated that the committee is looking at all roads especially those with not too many taxpayers and relatively high maintenance costs. Greg Paus asked if Susan felt that one option could be to limit winter maintenance on Green River Dam Road and Susan agreed since the facility is closed and they are experiencing winter vandalism because of the year-round access. Mike wondered if Morrisville Water and Light could plow the road since they are the only ones that need access to the dam for weekly inspections. Dave agreed that there appeared to be little public interest or benefit in maintaining the Green River Dam Road in the winter and Susan agreed. Mike reported that the town highway grades the Green River Dam Road about 5 to 6 times per year. Susan asked if the town objected to the State improving Zach Woods Road (Class 4 TH #22, 0.44 miles in Hyde Park) that runs between Garfield Road and the Town of Wolcott and if the town could help with that work. Ron asked for a sketch of the work they are considering and, if the state is doing the work, then they should apply to the Selectboard for a 19 VSA 1111 permit. Susan noted that a private road, Mud Pond Road, off Zach Woods Road received a Better Back Roads grant to improve that access with work planned for this coming summer. Jim Fontaine noted that the Class 4 section of Diggins Road may need to be upgraded with funding assistance from adjoining property owners. Susan advised that the best way to seek state funding is to start with the town's state representative (Rep. Martin and Rep. Woodward).

4. **Other Business** – None.
5. **Next Regular Monthly Meeting** – Monday, April 13, 2015 at 4:30 p.m., Municipal Offices. Work on policies and recommendations.
6. **Adjourn** – Motion by Troy to adjourn at 5:30 p.m., with no objection.