

**HYDE PARK ROADS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
April 13, 2015**

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

Members Present: Greg Paus, Troy Hayford and Mike Dubie
Members Absent: Jim Heath, Brian Jones
Others Present: Ron Rodjenski, Town Administrator; Nancy Tingle – Tingle Road; Jim Fontaine – Diggins Road, Michelle Adams – Sylvan Road; Bob and Ruth Woodside – Power Plant Road; Norm Andrews – Orchard Terrace

Ron opened the meeting at 4:32 p.m.

1. **Public Comment** – Power Plant Road. In 1895, the road was laid out for the Village hydro power plant – the best plant in New England at that time – and it operated until 1952. Bob bought the property in 1966, renovated it and made into a residence. After 3 years of permitting the plant returned to its original purpose is 1987 and is still producing 125kW. The town maintained road is important as the plant needs, from time to time, emergency repairs from failed equipment or flood damage. Ruth offered that while there is not much public use of the property, the hydro-plant does provide public benefit from renewable energy and it is an important historic place in Hyde Park. Bob noted that no public money went into the renovation work. Ruth asked that the town consider the value of the hydro-plant to the town when debating whether to end public maintenance of Power Plant Road. Ruth provided documents and a photo for distribution to the committee and Selectboard.
2. **Minutes** – Motion by Troy to approve the March 9, 2015 minutes, as written. Seconded by Greg. Voting: 3 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
3. **Norm Andrews, Orchard Terrace** – Norm stated that the Village has a right-of-way for water and sewer within the village street, noting that three driveways come off Orchard Terrace, including 71 Commonwealth Avenue, and not two homes as is noted on the committee's summary sheet. Norm wanted to know if the fact that three homes exist improves the chances of continued maintenance. The committee reminded everyone that the committee would not make decisions but is charged with fact-finding and making recommendations to the Selectboard.
4. **Nancy Tingle, Tingle Road** - Nancy would like to have home business added to the road list for Tingle Road. The below email is from Nancy Tingle 03/28/2015:
Tingle Road is unpaved. It does not have culverts. The only service we receive is plowing and an occasional road smoothing. The annualized maintenance cost assigned to our road covers 4 services and is estimated by you to cost the Town \$960 of which we provide \$442 in taxes. The reality is that we receive one service. Our road costs the town \$240.

We do not understand what the savings to the town will be. And please note that Tingle Road provides access to a fire hydrant that borders our property and the 3 house development on Sylvan Road which is behind us. Duncan and Nancy Tingle
5. **Michelle Adams, Sylvan Road** - Michelle stated that her private road is town-maintained now and residents are either not year-round or have limited funds to start maintaining the road.

5. **Policies and Recommendations:** The recommendations to the Selectboard should be consistent following the fact-finding and input from abutting property owners. The Committee will invite Craig Myette, Morrisville Water & Light, to the May committee meeting as Green River Dam Road's current town maintenance practices are being reviewed and MWL needs year-round access to the dam for inspections. Ron will prepare a draft recommendation list for Class 4 Discontinuances, the Class 3 road, Puckerbrush East, should be reclassified as the road is not complete, and not make any recommendations for VFW Road because the Selectboard recently accepted it as a Class 3 road. Norm stated that in the past the landowners have paved the loop at the end of Orchard Terrace, at their own cost.
6. **Other Business** – None.
7. **Next Regular Monthly Meeting** – Monday, May 11, 2015 at 4:30 p.m., Municipal Offices. Work on policies and recommendations.
8. **Adjourn** – Motion by Mike to adjourn at 5:32 p.m., with no objection, adjourned.