

**HYDE PARK ROADS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
May 11, 2015**

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

Members Present: Troy Hayford, Mike Dubie, Jim Heath
Members Absent: Greg Paus, Brian Jones
Others Present: Ron Rodjenski, Town Administrator; Jim Fontaine (Diggins Rd), Jeff Beattie(Benson Rd), Bev Potter (Mason Rd), Theresa Farquharson (Hemingway Rd); Core Hathaway (Diggins Rd), Norm Andrews (Orchard Terrace) and Nancy Tingle (Tingle Rd)

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

1. **Public Comment** – Jeff Beattie appeared and provided his history on Benson Road. Jeff's family bought the property in the mid-1980's and the possibility the town would end maintenance is hurtful and feels like a broken promise. Jeff explained that if the road becomes private:
 - a. He could not afford to maintain the road which will cost him 3 to 4 times the town's cost.
 - b. During winter or wind storms, the tree-lined road could become blocked, preventing emergency vehicle access to his home.
 - c. The value of his property would be reduced.
 - d. The other properties now served by the public road would also be negatively impacted; two year-round homes, a camp and a forestry lot.Jeff noted that lots now accessed from Mead Road also have frontage on Benson Road. Jeff stated that the savings to the town would be minimal if the road was discontinued. The committee thanked Jeff for providing the information.
2. **Minutes** – Approval of the April 13th minutes was deferred for lack of quorum of those attending.
3. **Norm Andrews, Orchard Terrace** – Norm asked that the Road List data be updated to show 3 homes using Orchard terrace. The first house has a Commonwealth Ave 911 address but the driveway is off Orchard Terrace. Ron will review.
4. **Corey Hathaway, Diggins Road** – Corey asked that Road List data be updated to show that the house number on Diggins Road be clarified to 5 on the currently maintained section and 2 on the Class 4 section (Hathaway and Fearing).
5. **Nancy Tingle, Tingle Drive** – Nancy stated that if certain roads are in the same condition, then she would expect them to be treated the same. The Committee agreed that has been discussed as the committee's guide when making recommendations to the Selectboard.
6. **Bev Potter, Mason Road** – Beverly updated the committee on her meetings with neighbors and her upcoming meeting with the Selectboard on May 14.
7. **Policy and Recommendations Discussion** – A second committee memo will be reviewed at the next meeting in June. In the second memo the following recommendations will be finalized:
 - a. **Road List #1 through #4** – These categories were addressed in a June 2014 memo – advising that the Selectboard needed to work on this as it involved legal issues and “unclassified town highways” being maintained by the Town. A brief discussion on possibly merging Tingle and Sylvan into one town road ended with Nancy Tingle agreeing to speak to her husband about that possibility. Roads: Mason, Hemingway, Crabapple and Sylvan.
 - b. **Road List #5 and #6** – Puckerbrush East is currently on the Selectboard's list due to new development proposed and does not need committee recommendations.

Puckerbrush West has a preliminary survey completed and easements are needed from adjoining landowners, but no other action is required by the Committee.

- c. **Road List #7 and #8** – #7 on the Road List is Diggins Road which has been reviewed at length and one landowner, Rob Alvino, has had preliminary engineering estimate for the cost to upgrade the Class 4 hill section (ending at the dry hydrant pond) to Class 3 standards of about \$80,000. Jim Fontaine offered to contact Rob Alvino for more information on his engineering estimate. Jim Fontaine asked who will pay for the upgrades and could the town just provide winter plowing without the road upgrades since this is a pre-existing situation. Mike Dubie explained that the hill is not safe for town maintenance without making the road wider and taking care of the surface and subsurface water issues. Ron explained that most paved town roads and new development roads will have 11-foot lanes and 2-foot shoulders. Gravel roads generally have 11-foot lanes but some have less width when not through-roads. Ron noted that for private roads the Development Review Board is allowing 9-foot lanes, but shoulders and all other requirements must be met as for public roads.

Regarding #8 - Langdell Road – This Class 4 road is plowed by the town and discussion on whether or not to continue plowing was deferred to the committee's June meeting.

8. **Other Business** – None.
9. **Next Regular Monthly Meeting** – Monday, June 8, 2015 at 4:30 p.m., Municipal Offices. Continue work on policies and recommendations.
10. **Adjourn** – Motion by Troy to adjourn at 5:30 p.m., with no objection, adjourned to June.