

**HYDE PARK ROADS COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
August 10, 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, Greg Paus, Jim Heath  
**Members Absent:** Brian Jones  
**Others Present:** Ron Rodjenski, Town Administrator; Jim Fontaine (Diggins Road), Susan Moore (Langdell Loop); Nancy Tingle (Tingle Rd); Gus Elfer (Frost Road)

---

Ron opened the meeting at 4:35 p.m.

- 1. Welcome & Public Comment** – Nancy Tingle advised the committee that based on the 2012 Road Acceptance Policy; the committee should revise the Road List #9 through #23 by deleting the roads with 3 homes from consideration. Nancy stated that the policy requires road maintenance when roads have 3 houses or businesses or more. Nancy advised that the committee's mission statement includes the goal of reducing highway maintenance costs and capital costs and after deleting some of the Road List roads, only 1.36 miles remains for consideration by the committee. Nancy submitted a memo showing the calculation of the 1.36 miles. Nancy cautioned the committee that ending maintenance on currently plowed roads will reduce property values and tick off a lot of residents. Ron stated that the Road Acceptance Policy, which outlines the process for accepting new public roads, can't be mixed in with the discussion on what to do about existing roads. Nancy stated that the town should not go against past practices of plowing short roads that cost the town very little in annual maintenance. She hoped that the town would not renege on past practices but move forward with new development that affect new people. Nancy advised that the fire risk to existing properties is increased if the town ends plowing. Greg Paus advised that the town maintenance must be done for the public good not individual residents, as the Committee had been advised previously by the town attorney. Susan Moore asked how the committee got started, acknowledging that she is getting involved at the end of the committee's work. She stated that she has been a resident on Langdell Road for 40 years and the town has plowed the road for at least 50 years. Jim Heath stated that when he left the Selectboard a few years ago, his main concern was the increasing costs of highway maintenance and how the town would manage those costs to meet new and increasing regulatory requirements. Jim noted that the committee has been fact-finding and trying to understand how existing roads are maintained. Jim asked if it was fair that the town was plowing some roads with one house but not all private driveways with one or two houses. Susan offered that Hyde Park is a rural town and people value the road system, including the possibility of using the currently town-maintained roads to serve their future development projects. Jim Heath explained that over time, changes to the town maintenance practices are necessary. Jim Fontaine noted that a correction to the Road List was needed for Green River Dam Road – it should only have one year-round home noted. Mike Dubie agreed that the Road List #9 through #23 are unique roads amongst themselves and they should be broken down into smaller groups based on their own condition. Gus Elfer stated that some of the roads are historical roads serving one farm and some farms are still active and continue receiving the town plowing benefit. Gus stated that having the town plow helps him keep the land open and to remain a viable business and if town plowing is ended, what service do I get for my taxes? Gus hoped that the committee would recommend that active farm roads continue to be plowed. Mike Dubie agreed that active farms should be plowed. Gus stated that farms have little demands on

the road and his current level of service could be reduced. Jim Heath asked if one farm is plowed should all business drives then be plowed. Greg Paus noted that he has a business on a private drive that he maintains at his own cost. Gus stated that home businesses are different. Ron summarized that the next step for the committee was to prepare recommendations based on the groupings in the Road List and deliver the report to the Selectboard. Greg noted that Class 3 roads are maintained year-round but over time, Class 4's and private roads have received winter plowing from time to time. Greg advised that the committee's work was the Selectboard's decision to get legal and clarify maintenance practices. Susan Moore noted that the Langdell loop road classification description is incorrect and Ron will verify the description on the Road List matches the highway map. Susan noted that she now plows a portion of the Class 4 road to her house, and the former town road commissioner, Bill Patch, started plowing the Class 4 section many years ago since it was just as efficient as turning around at the end of the Class 3. Susan noted that there is an ancient road from her house to Cooper Hill Road, but it is no longer used. Jim Heath advised that the town attorney should comment on the Selectboard ending maintenance on Class 3's for some roads with 3 or less homes or businesses but then deciding to maintain a road with one farm business. Greg Paus reminded everyone that the Selectboard has the final say on all highway reclassifications and the committee recommendations will be fair and consistent. Mike Dubie clarified his suggestion that the Road List #9 through #23 be broken down more, suggesting that Class 3's with limited development and no significant drainage structures could be discontinued but if structures existed then the road should be reclassified to Class 4. A Class 4 town highway requires that the town maintain culverts and bridges, but not provide winter maintenance or regular summer maintenance. Mike noted that at this time he could not recommend the same action for all Class 3's with 3 or less homes. Jim Heath stated if you break down the roads by farms, what about inactive farms or potential farms, does the town plow all active farms, and how then do you define an active farm? Susan asked if new town roads need to be built to current standards and Greg responded that yes, the Selectboard needs to inspect and approve new Class 3 roads before plowing and accepting maintenance responsibilities. Jim Heath noted that bringing existing roads up to Class 3 standards is quite a process. Greg Paus reminded the committee that the town attorney stated that if a town plows a road, whether Class 3 or not, that action does not create a vested interest to a landowner to continued town plowing. Greg noted that the Selectboard decides whether to discontinue roads and maintenance not the committee. Mike Dubie noted that Frost Road and Sloboda Road, for example, have expensive drainage structures and could be reclassified to Class 4, but other Class 3's without significant structures should be discontinued.

2. **Policy and Recommendations Discussion** – The Committee asked that Ron review the Road List for final corrections and that a draft final memo to the Selectboard be prepared. The Committee agreed to meet, possibly for the final time, on August 17, 2015 at 4:30 p.m. Jim Fontaine noted that he knows of one additional Class 3 with 3 or less homes and Mike offered Bourdeau Road. Ron will review the map of town-plowed Class 3's to prepare the final Road List.
3. **Other Business** – None.
4. **Minutes** – Approval of the April 13<sup>th</sup>, May 11<sup>th</sup>, June 8<sup>th</sup> and July 13<sup>th</sup> minutes deferred to the next meeting.
5. **Adjourn** – Motion by Troy to adjourn at 5:34 p.m., with no objection, so adjourned.