

**HYDE PARK ROADS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
August 17, 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, Brian Jones and Jim Heath
Members Absent: None
Others Present: Ron Rodjenski, Town Administrator; Jim Fontaine (Diggins Road), and Nancy Tingle (Tingle Rd)

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

1. **Welcome.**
2. **Minutes** – Motion by Mike Dubie to approve the following 2015 minutes; April 13th, May 11th, June 8th July 13th and August 10th as written. Seconded by Brian. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, with those abstaining for approval for the minutes they were not present, motion passed. Jim H abstained from April, June & July. Brian abstained from April, May and August 10. Greg abstained from May.
3. **Public Comment** – Norm Andrews submitted an email on August 10, 2015 regarding his feeling that the change in maintenance for roads with 3 or less homes will lower property values and “is a direct violation of your Road Policy.” Greg asked that the email be included in the record.
4. **Road List and Recommendations** – The Committee reviewed the draft road list, dated August 17, 2015, which now includes a new total of 35 roads. A new note was added regarding paved aprons, of varying lengths, on some gravel roads; Godin (90 feet), Gowen, Benson (90 feet), Morey (90 feet) and Marcoux (60 feet). The four new roads added to the road list include Class 3 roads that transition to Class 4 roads and have 3 or less homes; Bourdeau Road is plowed for almost the entire Class 3 length; Leriche Road and E. Johnson Road have a portion of their Class 4 sections plowed by the town; and the second half of Depot St Extension is an unmaintained Class 3 road. The Committee reviewed the draft recommendations report pulled together by Ron which is formatted on the Selectboard’s mission statement. The Committee felt that an executive summary should be added which would only include bullet points on specific points discussed during the meetings; for example, Class 4 roads should not be plowed by the town; Class 3 roads should be plowed by the town and those plowed roads should match the identified Class 3 roads on the town’s General Highway Map published by the State of Vermont; and town road upgrade costs should be paid by the landowners proposing new development, including legal, survey and construction costs. Greg mentioned that some points from Paul Gillies would be good to remind everyone of, such as no vested rights to road maintenance and Class 4 roads require only culvert and bridge maintenance by the town. After lengthy discussion, the Committee agreed to revise/combine paragraph 3e and 3f under Task 3 to remove the recommendation for discontinuance and change the recommendation to reclassify the road to Class 4. This change would end town plowing but retain public responsibility for culverts and bridges. Ron noted that this also retains the public right-of-way should new development be proposed that might benefit the general public and require reclassification back to Class 3 for year-round maintenance. Other minor wording changes were discussed and a new draft will be reviewed at a future meeting. Jim Fontaine noted that the Class 3 road width requirements should be clarified as it varies in the State standards where travel lane width and shoulder width are based on amount of traffic and speed, which seems more appropriate than a set width for all Class 3’s. Ron noted that the state is currently revising the state standards, last adopted in 1997, to react to new stormwater & water quality standards. The Committee agreed to meet one last time on August 31 at 4:30 p.m. to approve the final set of recommendations for the Selectboard.
5. **Other Business** – None.
6. **Adjourn** – Motion by Troy to adjourn, seconded by Mike, so adjourned at 6:10 p.m.