

**HYDE PARK ROADS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
August 31, 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, and Jim Heath
Members Absent: Brian Jones
Others Present: Ron Rodjenski, Town Administrator; Jim Fontaine (Diggins Road), Dan & Carol Young (Sylvan Hill); Nancy Tingle (Tingle Road)

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

1. **Welcome.** Ron noted that Brian Jones will not be attending.
2. **Minutes** – Motion by Mike Dubie to approve the August 17, 2015 minutes, as written. Seconded by Troy. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
3. **Road List and Recommendations** – Ron handed out the 8/31 draft of the final report which included changes from last meeting and comments or corrections from committee members. Sylvan Road owners, Dan & Carol Young, appeared and felt that since the town has always maintained the road, then they should continue to maintain the road. Carol noted that this was the first time she heard about a potential change in town maintenance. Ron suggested that the Committee could put a press release out summarized the report and recommendations and let residents know that the report was available on the town website or by calling the town clerk's office. Greg said that the committee has researched and obtained road information that not many residents have heard before, including the committee members. Jim Heath advised that the committee was a fact-finding committee and the Selectboard has the final say on making any changes recommended in the report. Jim Heath advised that when he was a Selectboard member he knew there were some issues with roads and this committee has researched those issues. Carol stated that she was fine with paying taxes to have their road kept up, however, just now finding out the road is in disrepair even though maintained by the town and that the town might stop plowing seems unfair. Mike D noted that it has been a private road which was maintained by the town. Dan offered that we can make statements like "it was always a private road" – but now that it is deemed "unclassified" due to town maintenance, the status did change. Greg explained that private road issues need to be made legal through a formal acceptance process and property owners have no vested rights to continued town maintenance. Greg noted that the Selectboard can make changes to unclassified and classified roads, but only through a legal process. Dan stated that two options exist; discontinue or classify, asking what the cost difference was. Ron stated that discontinuance is a one-time expense with the risk of a court challenge and classifying is a long-term commitment by the town to regular maintenance expenses. Carol noted that their road has a hydrant and Troy offered that the Fire Chief noted it was not easily accessible due to the road. Carol advised that the best notice to landowners, if the Selectboard pursues changes, would be by certified mail and Ron agreed that notice of Selectboard action is required to be sent certified. Dan stated that the downhill side of Sylvan is slipping and cars need to hug the left going up the hill which is also the downhill travel lane. Jim Fontaine asked about class road widths and Ron stated the report recommends that the Selectboard set a clear standard. Jim asked if a Class 3 that didn't meet standards could be built on and Ron said the Selectboard acts on those requests case-by-case. Jim asked about private road widths and Ron stated that the Subdivision Regulations has 18' minimum width for travel lanes. Motion by Troy to approve the 08/31/2015 Final Report and forward same to the Selectboard. Seconded by Greg. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
4. **Other Business** – Ron thanked everyone for their work and stated that the Selectboard would receive the report on Sept 10th. Jim Heath will represent the committee at the Selectboard meeting.
5. **Adjourn** – Motion by Troy to adjourn, seconded by Mike, so adjourned at 4:45 p.m.