

Town of Hartford
Road Committee Meeting
Approved Minutes
January 28th, 2025

Meeting called to order at 1801.

Member in attendance: Wesley Brown, Rick Gammon, David Theriault, Al Borzelli, Dianne Diblasio.

Absent: Jennifer Garrigan Philbrick. Paul Burmeister on vacation.

General Public: Ken Violette, Kathleen and Jason Landry, Ian Cowett.

Discussion started with review of dirt roads and listing them in order of priority. Paul spent several hours driving the roads and formulated a complete list. Several other members also rated the roads in regards to the quality. Many have been identified as needing significant work, from the base to pitch and crown work. Discussion regarding Ron Chase and his thoughts and estimates after he drove with Wesley and Cathy Lowe. When spring arrives, dirt roads will be reviewed and at that time roads will be placed on a list for priority. Discussion regarding building up several roads each year, but also trying to grade and crown all every year.

During the past selectboard meeting, they asked the road committee to discuss Pratt Hill and start moving forward to start work on the paving/grinding bids and finish work. The selectboard also asked to initiate an Ad Hoc committee for the bid process, as they feel this may be beneficial as the road commissioner has refused to participate in the past bidding process. The Ad Hoc committee will be made up of anyone that has interest in this project, versus the regular bid committee the is comprised of the road committee chair, a selectboard member, and the road commissioner. Members that have agreed to participate are Wesley, Rick, Paul. This information will be provided to the selectboard at their next meeting, in case there is anyone else that would like to participate. Dianne spoke with Bim in regards to assisting with the paving project, and he has agreed to help.

Grinding for Pratt Hill was discussed. Wesley stated it should be at least a 6" deep grind. This should bring any rocks up rocks that may lie just under the surface. Gravel will have to be brought in to build the road up in accordance to our road standards. Two layers will be needed. If there are soft spots, canvas (Geotextile) could be laid over it and not dug out, so it will not sink. Discussion on quality of top gravel and base gravel and what are our road standards.

Culverts were discussed and the general maintenance of them. The committee was asked by the selectboard to get an inventory of new verses old culverts in town and possibly input this into the RSMS program. There are still ARPA funds that are available to purchase more culverts that may be needed.

Discussion on road work priorities for the coming year. Pratt Hill is the first priority. Then looking at Church Street and Town Farm for remodeling then paving. These roads were discussed during the bond vote; however, they were not ready for paving so they were put off.

Ian Cowett brought up a concern regarding the stone bridge on Cowett Road getting replaced by a culvert. He states Cathy Lowe and Bim told his mother Sandra that this would be performed this year. His mother became

very upset, as they have no complaints of the road and it is a dead end with basically only family on this road. He does not want to see the town spend money when it is not needed.

Kathleen Landry did confirm she sent a letter to the select board regarding this matter. Kathleen stated that work on the road was never discussed between the selectboard and the road commissioner. Ian also stated David Bragg has been plowing for Mcneil farms with a 1 ton and there are no issues. He states the only time there has been issues is when there is a large snow storm and it does not get plowed until the storm has finished. Wesley feels reflective posts could be placed on both sides of the road, just for liability purposes. Ian states there has been signs before, however they were knocked over and wired tied to the trees. The only concern Ian has is that the road needs to be graded properly at the correct time of year. He wished Stanley Brown was still here to grade. He states the pitch and the crown are non-existent and pot holes need to be filled.

Kathleen states Hartford will receive around 500,000 from FEMA She will be attending a phone conference on January 29th. Ken states we will receiving around 75% of that total. Road work does not need to be completed to be submitted to FEMA. They do require estimates, as time and material is not acceptable for submission.

Kathleen notified us that the computer was ready for the road committee to utilize the RSMS system. Dianne will call around to identify graders and operators that may be available. Ron Chase can be contacted again.

A question came up regarding RT 219 (Federal Road) and the State of Maine performing an assessment to see if there is enough traffic on that road for the state to take over plowing. The state has agreed to monitor traffic this summer. Wesley states federal roads do not get posted.

The bid process was discussed. Kathleen stated that Leanne places it on the town website then we all shared it on our face book page. Jason stated there was a site for contractors where the bid information could be shared. One site for this is construction summary of NH, ME, and VT. There is a small fee to join. Bids and other work can be placed on this site for contractors to view. Another is Maine bids.com. There is also a small fee to join.

Dave Theriault asked to relinquish the secretary position. Dianne was nominated and seconded. All 4 members that were present voted in favor of Dianne taking the secretary position.

The next meeting is tentatively set for April 29th. At 6 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 1844.

Sincerely,

Dianne DiBlasio