

Town of Hartford
Road Committee Meeting

July 8th 2024

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. Members present were: Wesley Brown, Al Borzelli, David Theriault, Jennifer Garrigan, Steve Elsmann, Ryan Roe-Johnson, and Dianne DiBlasio. Also in attendance were Selectboard members Kathleen Landry and Cathy Lowe, Road Commissioner Alan McNeil, Jeremy Johnson, Morrill Nason, Brandon McNeil, Lee Holman, Jason Landry, Ken Violette, Becky Elsmann, Kay Holmes, and Lennie Eichman.

This was the first meeting after newly appointed Members. Wesley Brown was elected for chairman, Al Borzelli for Co-chair, David Theriault secretary.

The meeting was set around the improvement of Pratt Hill Road and the erosion into Bear Pond. This was requested by the selectman as the priority road work issue. Wesley discussed erosion control for Pratt hill and feels the issue of erosion into Bear Pond is not coming from Pratt hill, that is most likely is coming from the Sub division that was approved above Pratt hill with the road coming off of 219. Morrill Nason feels that the planning board should evaluate the compliance erosion control, since they gave the permit out for this project. Alan McNeil feels silt is going into the pond, and had dug rock 18"-2'. Ditching was not done as it was becoming late in the Year. He also stated there has been logging off of the North side of Pratt Hill, which may also be contributing to erosion problems. Jeremy Johnson stated two culverts were installed on Pratt Hill. He stated that it is to late in the year to get a BID package together for this road work. Alan and Jeremy feel that they are providing the town with the cheapest option and Bid's will cost more then they charge. Alan stated that Jeremy provided his excavator at an hourly rate and that Alan provided his dump trucks.

Alan stated he has been working with FEMA to get reimbursement for last year road damage.

Lennie inquired if Pratt Hill was included in the Bond that was approved. Alan stated no, it was not, as it was not ready for paving. Dianne inquired about the culverts that were purchased in 2022 for Pratt hill and where they were located. Al Borzelli asked if all the culverts could be accounted for. Alan stated that he believes they are behind the salt shed.

Discussion occurred around projects going out to BID. Wesley feels it is best for the town and feels this will give transparency to everyone.

Cathy Lowe feels that it will be too difficult to BID on a road project, as it can't be estimated what might arise for issues. Wesley suggested, and the road members agreed, that the Road Commissioner should work up an estimate and provide it to the selectman for review. Alan and Jeremy stated they would provide that.

A suggestion was also brought up, that complaints around Pratt hill should be reviewed and allow time for the road commissioner to look at these and evaluate what may need to be done to correct the problems.

Discussion regarding grading of a road and a false ditch that was done. Wesley had concerns that this would cause the road to wash out. He spoke with Brandon regarding this, and Brandon went

and fixed the issue. Wesley was very appreciative that he went out and did that. The road came out wonderful.

Wesley provided a cost fee schedule from Maine DOT on equipment rates and operator costs. Alan and Jeremy reviewed this and felt it was low. After more of an in-depth review, it was determined their costs were similar to what was presented.

Jennifer discussed that there was work done on the RSMS to get roads inventoried. Dianne stated she agreed and that considerable work was done and that at the time of this, the road committee was not given approval for the cost of a new lap top and updated system. At the time the selectman stated to the road committee that there was not sufficient security within the town office computer system to do this. Jason Landry stated he was given the older lap top, as he was appointed to the road committee, and imported the road information into it. Jason resigned as his work went unnoticed and felt his time was best spent elsewhere. Dianne stated this has been a significant problem in the past, as the work as requested by the selectboard at the time, was disregarded. It was discussed that a 3-, 5-, and 10-year Road committee advisory plan was completed but not followed or implemented. Alan wants to work with the committee and the selectman to come up with a new plan of the work that has been done and what else that also needs to be completed. Wesley would like to obtain the road complaints before the next meeting for review.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 22nd at 7 pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:21.

Respectfully composed by

Diane DiBlasio

Hartford Road Committee

Edited by David P. Theriault , mainly spelling, as current Road Committee Secretary