

Small Roads Project Meeting Minutes – March 21, 2023 7pm in the Town Hall

- **Attendees:** Gregg Thibodeau, Mark Girard, Brenda Melius, Jennifer Bland, Ray LeClaire, Frank Emig
- **Public in attendance:** Carole Wallace, John Tuthill
- Reviewed the February 7th meeting minutes. MG motion to approve; JB seconded; motion passed.
- GT reiterated our position as a project team that it is possible that there may not be sufficient cause to recommend reclassifying any of the roads, due to the new information that we've received and considering the public perception. It is also important that we complete our due diligence because this result will for the first time produce a full set of information and data to better respond to any future inquiries on this matter.

- Update on the list of comments & feedback from public hearing.
 - GT completed entry of the Paul Breier list into our worksheet
 - Public Meeting Recording
 - GT completed 1 of the 4; **Action:** GT to complete the 2nd file.
 - **Action:** JB to review the Bascom notes – (shared drive and physical files)
 - **Action:** JB to review the Torrey Green list (online)
 - GT created a single spreadsheet to capture all feedback.

- Reviewed individual road assessments.
 - Stone Walls – See handout (review Breier assessment)
 - It was agreed that if a stone wall exists anywhere on any of the properties, then that would be grounds to check “yes” for existence of stone walls. Originally, the team was only considering stone walls that were on the actual road in question. This means that most of the roads will have this feature.

 - Maintenance, vehicle, and improvement costs
 - GT to utilize the Richmond ME 1992 study and the USDA Forestry Guidelines (2012) along with our own assessment as well as a new assessment that MG is conducting on 2 roads. We will review the updated worksheet and results at our next meeting.
 - It was agreed that both the Maine and USDA calculations will require inflation adjustments. **Action:** BM to provide GT with the COLA and inflation factors.
 - MG will assess 2 roads and their maintenance efforts. It was agreed that Meader and Nelson roads would be assessed.

 - We reviewed Breier Road given the 2nd driveway access that was approved by the Select Board in Nov/Dec 2022. Due to this change this would remove Breier from our list of recommended roads. The project team agreed.

 - Polly Hill update: The abutters were to meet and discuss the Ungeheuer's desire to close the road. Our project team agreed that this is something the Select Board should be involved with due to the traffic flow considerations. **Action:** GT to add to our list of recommendations.

 - Echo Valley and Russell Roads: **Action:** GT to reach out to both to determine if they want to pursue making these roads private roads.

- Tax Revenue Loss
 - **Action:** GT to assess each of the properties on the roads using the 2022 assessed values.
 - Aside: Tax impact of these roads to taxpayers - \$14K / 700 (approx. # of taxpayers according to tax assessor) = \$19

- Emergency Lane consideration; question raised by Glenn at the public hearing.

- “What is the liability implication for emergency lanes; Emergency Lane designation; Any liability for the private fire department?”
- Prime, NHMA and our attorney’s have stated that the town and all emergency services are not liable according to the NH statutes.
-
- Commercial use definition – Should we reconsider this definition? We agreed that we will stay with our recommended definition because it aligns with legal precedence and with NH tax law categories. The level of commercial use associated with this definition is also appropriate to determine significant traffic on a given road with this designation.
- Carole reiterated her concern that this effort is divisive to the town and pits neighbors against neighbors and feels that this effort should stop.
- **Next Meeting Agenda Items**
 - Review comments and feedback list status
 - Review legal follow-up
 - Review cost updates
 - Review updated plan

Members

Gregg Thibodeau
Jennifer Bland
Mark Girard
Brenda Melius
Ray LeClaire
Frank Emig

Meeting Schedule

18 April 2023
15 May 2023