

Calais Roads Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 20, 2015

at the Calais Town Office

(approved July 15, 2015)

Committee members present clock wise from the chair: Stephanie Kaplan (Chair), Barbara Weedon, Greg Pelchuck, Peter Harvey (Secretary), and Rick Kehne (Vice-Chair).

Committee member absent: Doug Lilley, Gary Schultz,

Guests: Michael Gray (Woodbury Selectboard member), Adamant residents: Rick Barstow, Janet Macleod, and Ruth Coppersmith.

(7:10pm) Stephanie began the meeting.

- Public Comments
 - none this evening
- Approve minutes of March 18, 2015 meeting
 - Stephanie reviewed the minutes, asking what had not been done since the March 18th meeting.
 - one correction
 - Gary did not vote (abstained) from voting to pass the Lightening Ridge Rd recommendation on to the Selectboard
 - Stephanie moved the minutes (Greg seconded). They passed 5-0.
- Report on comparative hauling costs from local gravel pits for 10 wheeler loads
 - Greg passed out a one page Road Material Spreadsheet
 - Although Bickford's (the preferred crushed granite gravel) has the highest cost per yard it is the closest pit which brings its total cost down because of the lower trucking costs.
 - The total cost estimate of hauling 571 loads per summer with a 14 yard 10 wheeler:
 - Bickfords (Marshfield) \$148,889
 - Pike (South Barre) \$130,383
 - Manosh (Wolcott) \$143,338
 - Greg said we should consider the wear and tear of all those trucking miles (15,988 to 20,556 miles per summer) and time (571 to 856 hours, 14 to 21 weeks per summer) shortens the working life of our trucks so that we have to spend more on repairs and/or buy new trucks more often.
 - Would it cost less overall to hire out the trucking?
 - Is this time that could be put to better use by our road crew than driving loads of gravel?

- Greg said that our road crew should be doing road maintenance, including repairing and installing small culverts, but not installing large culverts which should be put out to bid with companies that do it faster for less cost.
- What did it cost the Town of Calais to do the Martin Rd culvert?
- East Montpelier contracts out all their large culverts.
- What is our road crew's job description?
- We agreed to take this spread sheet to the Selectboard and Alfred.
- Rick will contact Toby and Alfred about coming to our next meeting. Wednesday June 17th.
- 7:39 – Discussion with Woodbury Selectman Michael Gray
 - Woodbury has a speeding problem and is interested in what Calais is doing to slow down cars on the gravel roads.
 - Stephanie told him that you can put speed limit signs up, but people are going to drive the speed that they feel comfortable at. We want to change the roads so it will affect how people feel about the way they drive. That is what our Road and Bridge Standards are about.
 - Rick said that from an engineer's perspective, the way to make a road safer is to straighten it out and increase the visibility. But that just makes people drive faster. Rick used the example of how now at interstate construction site they line the lanes with concrete "Jersey Barriers" that cause "shy behavior" which does slow drivers down. He said full time police are effective at slowing traffic, but they cost a lot of money. If you have a speeding problem, lowering the speed limit is not going to work and signage turns into white noise that gets ignored.
 - We told Michael about the traffic counters that the Central Vermont Planning Commission will put out on their roads for free.
 - When we put out the counters on the West County Rd we found that we have a few consistent speeders, but we don't really have a general speeding problem.
 - We discussed homemade signs (CHILDREN PRESENT, FARM STAND, TRACTOR CROSSING, etc) to catch drivers attention and make them more cautious. Homemade signs catch people's attention more than official signs that all look alike.
- Adamant intersection
 - Barbara talked about her concern about the Selectboard considering reconfiguring the Adamant Village intersection.
 - This Road Advisory Committee decided at our March meeting to recommend leaving the Adamant Village intersection as is.
 - Peter read 4 paragraphs about their discussion about reconfiguring the Adamant Village intersection from the 5/13/2015 Hardwick Gazette article about the last Calais Selectboard meeting. Rose relayed the Roads Advisory Committee's decision to the Selectboard.

- Barbara said that the intersection is safe as it presently is and that the residents want to keep it that way. It functions well. People can see who is coming. People slow down. It's our village green.
- Rick, Ruth, and Janet said that it needs to be left the way it is.
- Barbara said that every time the town gravels the road, it leaves the Co-op parking area lower than the road and a collector of water. They want the Town to bring the parking area up to grade so that it drains.
- Peter suggested that Barbara and the Adamant Village residents write a letter to the Selectboard stating their wishes about the intersection.
- Ruth said that she and Sara own the property where the culvert is being replaced and repositioned and no one has talked with them about it yet.
- Peter read from the INFORMATIONAL REPORT re: the EXISTING 5' DIAMETER CORRUGATED CULVERT NEAR JUNCTION WITH TH 57, ADAMANT ROAD - PREPARED BY NEWTON TECHNICAL SERVICES JULY 2014 about repositioning the culvert and stream.
- The Roads Committee should write our own letter to the Selectboard about the Adamant Village intersection.
- Other business - Review the Roads to conformance with the Calais Road Standards
 - look into forming a Tree Committee
 - checking the road crew work to see that they are building verges and ditches to the Calais Road & Bridges Standards when they work on roads
 - Do we need to meet twice a month for the summer?
 - What is the Road Crew job list for this summer.
 - Greg said that they began resurfacing the Adamant Rd a few days ago.
 - Greg said that a farmer is spilling manure on the new road surface. He will talk to Toby about who is spilling manure on the new staymat on Adamant Rd.
 - Peter said they have done some nice ditching from Fred's down to the corner. Not too deep, round bottom, and drivable.
 - We should meet Toby & Alfred and review the Adamant Rd work with them.
 - Rick, Barbara, and Peter said they would do a site visit and make notes on the Adamant Rd.
 - Greg said that if the road crew puts in the culvert it will close the Center Rd for 4 weeks. The Center Rd is the main route for the fire engines
- Committee's goals and activities for the year
 - tabled
- Greg and Rick - Proposed changes to Road & Bridge Standards about road side tree cutting and maintenance
 - tabled
- Tree Committee
 - tabled

- Continue discussion of which roads to review next
 - tabled
- Other business
 - Peter read Denise's email about the Road Forman's Meeting, Tue, May 26th, 10 -1 at the Fire Station: H.35 Water Quality Act, Road Activity Program, general discussion on maintenance topics.
 - Peter & Rick said they would go
- Next Meeting – Wednesday, June 17.
 - Read the Road and Bridge Standards and come with suggestions for changes to update them.
- 9:20 Adjourned

The next regular meeting is 7:00 PM, Wednesday, June 17, 2015 @ the Calais Town Office.

to do:

- Peter & Rick get on the agenda to give the Lightening Ridge Recommendations to the Selectboard at their next meeting.
- write Calais Standards for our intersections (State Standards would make Adamant a "T" intersection)
- Rick & Greg prepare a section about Road Intersections for our Road and Bridges Standards (Rick said we all need to work on that)
- Peter & Rick will pass on Gary's information to the Selectboard
 - Gary told us there are Federal Regulations/requirements; and nobody from the State is watching it... Their major concern is stop signs, things like that. There were dead lines that have since been lifted... The state is not taking any active role in checking to see if the [newest] big [road] signs are there.
 - We agreed to pass this information on to the Selectboard.
- Rick snow plowing corners who & when will talk with Toby & Alfred
- Rick said we have to adjust our standards to different topography and drainage conditions.
- Greg & Rick review road side tree standards
- next Selectboard meeting Monday June 8, 7:00 PM
- Peter email Denise to get on the June 8, meeting
- our next meeting is Wed, June 3 or Thursday June 4, maybe as early as 4 PM. Rick will ask Toby and Alfred to come to that meeting to talk about what their summer job schedule is.