



**BOARD OF ROAD COMMISSIONERS  
TOWN OF DUNSTABLE  
TOWN HALL, 511 MAIN STREET  
DUNSTABLE, MA 01827-1313  
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MINUTES  
JANUARY 9, 2012

The meeting began at 7 p.m. In attendance were Chairman Tom Dumont, Commissioner Mike Martin and Terry Atwood. Absent was Commissioner David Crandall.

Also in attendance were Debbie and Steve Ricci, residents of 905 Main St. They have owned the property since 1977. Since the new house was recently built across the street there has been an increase in water draining onto their property. What used to be a corral area for horses is now under water. An area that the Riccis formerly mowed is now too muddy to mow. Mike Martin stated that he went to the property during a rainstorm. He's not sure if the road commissioners have a role in this issue. Debbie explained that there was a drainage pipe put on the side of the road years ago, and there has never been a problem until the new house was built across the street. It seems the drainage for that house is being directed through this pipe and increasing the water volume draining onto their land. Mike asked who owned the stretch of trees and Debbie explained that she did - up to Wayne Maclean's property. Wayne doesn't have an issue with water. At one point she had talked with Gerry Simmons who suggested a trench go in, but Debbie is worried about liability with a trench and would like a pipe redirecting the water. She further stated she had previously had horses and vegetable gardens but now that area is too wet and unusable. Debbie also stated that she believed at one point a road commissioner approved the initial drainage pipe installation. Mike suggested she speak with Bill Moeller as he had visited the area after her initial phone call and saw that the pipe was functioning as it should. At this point in the meeting, because Bill Moeller happened to be in the town hall on another matter, Terry asked him to join the conversation. At 7:15 Bill Moeller joined the meeting. He reviewed the Assessors map to verify the location he visited. He confirmed that he saw vegetation and water that made him initially assume it was wetlands. He suggested the Riccis attend a Conservation Commission meeting because he doesn't want to make a decision on behalf of the entire Board.

Debbie stated that the land had been a farm. It had a barn and corral on it at one point and now it is unusable. The Riccis did allow trees to grow on the property to avoid having to mow the entire acreage. She further stated that it was never a wetland and if it looks like one now it is because the town created one because of the water being directed to drain there. She also noted that the town came in about 2 years ago to clean out the culvert.

Tom and Mike explained to the Riccis that it is the Highway Department's responsibility to clean culverts to avoid flooding on the road.



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Debbie stated that she would contact the Conservation Commission secretary to be put on their agenda. The Riccis left the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Tom asked if there was any update regarding Pine and Maple Streets road maintenance concerns. Terry stated that information has been forwarded to town counsel and the Tyngsboro (Danforth Road) residents, who attended last month's meeting, will be updated when Highway receives information from town counsel.

It was noted that Dick Henry canceled his scheduled time on the agenda and will attend a future meeting.

The minutes of December 14, 2012 were accepted as written.

The budget request for FY2013 was discussed. Because Commissioner Crandall is absent the Board decided to ask Fincom for a week's extension so they can meet again with all commissioners in attendance. The next meeting will be Monday, January 23, 2012 at 7 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Atwood  
Highway Secretary