



**BOARD OF ROAD COMMISSIONERS
TOWN OF DUNSTABLE
TOWN HALL, 511 MAIN STREET
DUNSTABLE, MA 01827-1313
(978) 649-4514 X227
FAX (978) 649-8893
roads@dunstable-ma.gov**

MINUTES
June 7, 2017

Commissioner Gove called the meeting to order at 7 pm. In attendance were Chairman Mike Martin, Commissioner Peter Gove and Commissioner Paul Dalida, Highway Superintendent David Tully and Secretary Terry Atwood. Also in attendance were Bob Kennedy, Judy Denham and Donna Denham, all residents of High St.

The Board welcomed Bob, Judy and Donna. Bob complimented the Board on filling in the shoulders on High St. and painting lines. He requested that '25 mph' be painted on the road at the foot of the hill to help try and slow down traffic. Peter said this has been discussed several times before. Bob is of the opinion that it will be more effective than signs. Judy and Donna agreed.

Bob also would support a side mower for brush cutting 4 times a year. Discussion followed. It was stated that killing Japanese Knotweed is not an easy task. Bob left the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Judy and Donna complained about the rock wall that was hit by a plow and had rocks displaced. There is a big hole and someone is going to get hurt if they go over the edge of the road, either walking, in a car or on horseback. David responded that he had the holes filled in last week. Judy also complained that she has complained several times with nobody returning her calls. Mike and David said they had visited the site and did not see a hole at the time about a year ago. Donna stated that there is really no stone wall existing anymore. David stated that the person across the street knocked the wall down when they were plowing – not the town. Mike stated that he returns all phone calls and he didn't receive a call from her. Judy stated that she has left messages with the secretary. Terry stated that she had forwarded her concerns. Discussion followed. Donna agreed with Bob Kennedy's concerns about the traffic needing to be slowed down. Judy stated there have been complaints already about the stones Highway had put down because it bothers the horses' feet. Donna stated that the wall above the culvert is missing stones and more traffic and trucks are destroying the culvert. The Board discussed possibly putting in guardrail and RAP. David felt it would make it tight and Paul asked if it would slow the traffic down. Donna doesn't think so – she works 3rd shift and at 1pm during the afternoon cars are flying on the road. David will pull rocks out and see what can be done. Mike saw the stone but didn't see the sinkhole. Judy said that the big rock stuck in the hole didn't work. She also complained about the plowing and that the plows are going by every half hour and sometimes every 15 minutes. David explained that it takes 1-1/4 hours for the plow drivers to complete their route, and there are 2 trucks together as one follows the other. The roads are sanded after every storm. Judy and Donna left the meeting at 7:20 p.m.



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Peter welcomed Paul to the Board. Discussion followed about possible remedies to Judy and Donna's concerns. Mike thought a guardrail may work, but David thinks a guardrail will blow the whole thing out due to its poor condition.

Discussion followed about painting the speed limit on the street and it was agreed that others will want to do the same thing and would require repainting and it may not have any effect.

Peter made a motion to have Mike remain Chairman of the Board. Paul seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The Alexander Way bond was discussed. The town is now holding a \$30,000 bond as the \$11,500 was not enough in the opinion of the Planning Board. It will be held until the road is accepted at town meeting and used for plowing if necessary. Also discussed was the necessary replacement of a couple of pine trees and a washout which was recently fixed by Gerry Welch. A manhole was recently built up by using 3 rings and a casting placed on top of it.

Peter asked if the town was responsible to clean out the culvert. Mike didn't think so and Jeff Rider needs to be informed. Paul asked about construction standards. Peter explained it needs to be constructed according to Planning Board's standards. David informed Paul that the Board of Road Commissioners really didn't have a legal right to say anything until the road is accepted. Paul asked about reviewing plans and making recommendations. The Board stated they make recommendations to the Planning Board. Board explained to Paul that recently they have made requested Planning Board rules and regs updates to protect the town better. Mike stated the new roadway has to be 5' down with approved gravel. Adam St. is in poor condition, but it was built to the standards required at the time. Chapman St. developers have been very accommodating to work with. Stormwater management is now a focal point in towns and it is very costly. Chapman and Alexander Way is sand so stormwater should not be an issue. Jeff Rider reviews plans. Paul asked if he used the new standards. Mike and Peter explained that he used the standards that were in place at the time the development began. Paul explained that if the usage changes during a project, depending upon how broad the definition of usage is according to the Planning Board, a new permit may need to be applied for and held up to the new standards.

Discussion followed regarding traffic counts. David asked about the possibility of getting a traffic count on Hall St. Paul stated that Justin and Beverly at NMCOCG may be able to help with traffic counts and there are schematics of every road in town, some may be 5 years old and some recent. Paul stated that the general rule is that there are 7 trips a day per household. David stated that there is a lot of building going on right now including Maple St. Peter noted that Hall St and Lake St are destroyed from the Alexander Way building. Mike brought up the future warrant article to have developers provide alternatives for different requirements during a project but it didn't make it to this past town meeting. Paul also mentioned that if there is mining going



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on it may require royalties. This needs to be explored more. Jeff Rider is able to figure this out when looking at plans. David though Planning Board waived royalties. Paul asked if Highway can post weight limits. David said it was tried on High St. Paul thinks they can be posted. David stated that the town of Hollis, NH is 30 mph for the entire town unless otherwise posted. The Selectmen decide what's to be posted in Dunstable and Highway installs the signs. Mike stated that no loam is ever supposed to leave Dunstable.

Board discussed upcoming paving. Flyers will go out to residents and they will be able to go down School St. while Hall St. is being paved. This is planning on being paved before school gets out and he needs the Dee Bus schedule. Approximately 700 tons will be used for Hall St.

The paving budget was discussed. Paul suggested polling other towns for the amount of road miles and their paving budgets. Bringing this to Fincom will help to support Highway's budget requests. It was noted that Fincom has been unsupportive in the past. The paving budget was cut years ago and has never been replenished. Paul suggested going to Fincom and asking what they want to see to support Highway's requests. Mike and David responded that this has been unsuccessful in the past. Paul thought approaching the budget differently, asking for a few thousand every year in order to build up needed funds may be an option.

Crack sealing for the roads was discussed. Paul stated it depends on how it's done. David stated he has heard different opinions. He'll get prices and possibly if there's a special town meeting in the fall it could be added. He would like to try it on roads paved in the past few years to try and get more longevity from them.

Peter talked about the temporary entrance/exit permit. Board decided to add a note stating - "edge of roadway must be protected all times from damage during construction and any access of existing roadway must maintain a 6" higher than the road and crushed stone must be installed" - onto the application.

The retainer agreement was also discussed. Terry will change the application to state that the applicant has 6 months to complete or an extension can be requested. The current statement in the retainer saying that the applicant has to June 1st will be removed.

Mike brought up the request from the Town Administrator for \$300 out of town budgets for new phones. Mike and Peter are against this.

Peter made a motion to accept the minutes of 5/10/17. Mike seconded. Voted unanimous.

David talked about buying warranties for the new truck on order and the truck purchased last year. Board agreed warranties are needed.



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The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Atwood
Secretary

APPROVED