

CLASS V ROADS STUDY COMMITTEE
DECEMBER 15, 2015
MINUTES
Approved

Meeting called to order 6 PM

Present: Dan Brand, Mike Smith, Bill Malcolm, Sue MacKenzie. Guest: Ross McIntyre
Minutes from December 1, 2015 approved as written.

1. Goose Pond Road: Complete for the season. Last walk through on 12/14/15; a few drives still needed to be modified, banks looked good, road surface crowned and smooth. Reflective warning posts to mark culvert inlets will be place by the Highway Dept. L&M workers were present and correcting punch list as we identified them. In the spring we will do another walk through to check on how the project is holding up. In June 2016 will check how well the grass is growing on the banks.
2. Slump #1: Engineers decided to do borings from the top of the bank instead of boring from the road. David Roby has given permission for Mike Willis to go in with his machine to do the probes. Mike plans to do this on Thursday 12/17/15. If ledge is lower than imagined, it would be much easier to move the road to the East. CLD has submitted a proposal for planning the alternate route. Will wait for Willis's information before proceeding.
3. Slump #2: 475 feet of River Road just north of the Tullar Farm. There is a drop of 25 to 30 feet to a field below. Viewed with Charlie Hirschberg and Brian Vincent, from CLD they feel this is a slow process that is not critical at this time. The feeling is that we could place a "toe" at the bottom and fill in the the bank to stabilize the road. Three culverts in this area are distorted, non functioning and need to be replaced ASAP as the water is moving through the road bed contributing to the road settlement.
4. South End of River Road North of the Hanover line. There is a new, large void in the bank just to the north of the utility pole. We have asked Pathways to give us a proposal for an emergency permit to stabilize this area.
5. Can we be our own construction managers and supervise our own projects to save money. This subject is for us to consider and think about pros and cons.
6. Franklin Hill "dogleg" has been regraded and guardrails placed to try and improve this intersection, after a meeting with DOT engineers. We need to ask DOT to change the the speed limit in this area. Decrease the speed from 35 MPH to 30 MPH.
7. Ross McIntyre came to discuss River Road settlement area, he feels this road is probably 200 years old, and the current problems have only occurred over the last 50

years since the dam was built. He feels the costs of repairing this area should be reflected in the cost of electricity since the operation of the dam is in a large part responsible for the road problems that we are now experiencing along the river. We need to address our concerns with FERC. One concern is the erosion studies are not “quantitative” and will not demonstrate how the rise and fall of the river are directly causing the erosion. That the studies being done are more descriptive and not the studies that will demonstrate the actual relationship of the operation of the dam to the erosion. The blame will be placed on farmers, boats and weather.

Dan stated that this is a classic case of externality, a case where the damage is not accounted for in the cost of electricity.

We need to address this concern directly with FERC. The person responsible for the FERC should be contacted and told of our concerns. We should also contact our representatives, Maggie Hassan, Jean Sheehan and others to make them aware of this issue. CRWC has been advised. Dan will contact the UVLSRPC. I will contact John Fields, erosion study leader to ask if the quantitative studies are being done.

Should we be considering a lawsuit or a class action suit?

Discussed the concept of “sheet piling” and why it will not work in this area.

We also discussed bridging this area. It is a much longer span than would be feasible.

Does the Town of Lyme have Intervener status in the relicensing process?

Meeting adjourned at 7:15

Next meeting Jan 5, 2016, 6 PM, Town Office Conference Room

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Susan MacKenzie