

Town of Lyme
Board of Selectmen
Public Hearing Minutes for September 3, 2009

1. At 8:00 am Simon opened the public hearing on the possible designation of Mud Turtle Pond Road and/or Trout Pond Lane as “emergency lanes” under the provisions of RSA 231:59-a. The following attended the hearing: Simon Carr (chair), Dick Jones (member), Charles Ragan (member), Dina Cutting (administrative assistant), Pauline Field (police chief), Blake Allison, Put Blodgett and Lee Larson.
2. Simon explained the meaning and purpose of designating roads “emergency lanes” and opened the hearing for public comments:
 - a. Blake asked about the cost of the possible designation. Simon responded that the intent was not to maintain them at the standards of a Class V road, but only to make them passable by emergency vehicles. Dick explained that State law prohibited using appropriated funds to maintain Class VI roads and that this designation would permit, but not require, funds be spent to keep the roads passable but it was not intended to, for example, have them plowed in the winter or passable by a low hung sports car.
 - b. Blake then commented that he had talked to Bob Lee, an abutter, and he was concerned about how such a designation might lead to increased traffic on Mud Turtle Pond Road.
 - c. Lee commented that erosion was seriously damaging Trout Pond Lane and people were now driving over an uncovered culvert. Put seconded Lee’s concern that some minor maintenance was needed to keep Trout Pond Lane serviceable by emergency vehicles and the public.
 - d. Blake said that he was strongly in favor of keeping the road passable by emergency vehicles for forest fire fighting purposes.
 - e. Pauline commented that the police department has in the past been able to get where they are needed and referred to the requirements under State law for the roads to be designated “emergency lanes”.
3. At 8:18 Simon closed the public hearing the Board returned to its regular meeting.

R. G. Jones
recorder