

Town of Lyme
Board of Selectmen
Minutes for October 28, 2009

1. At 8:03 pm Simon opened the special meeting in the Lyme Center Academy Building. The following attended all or parts of the meeting:
 - a. Board and Staff: Simon Carr (chair), Dick Jones (member), Dina Cutting (administrative assistant) and Pauline Field (police chief);
 - b. Public (speakers): Put Blodgett, Margaret Caldwell, Tim Caldwell, Monton Copeland, Don Dickey, Dan Ferriot (representing W. Prickett), Sarah Goodman, Bob Green, Marc Kelly, Elizabeth Kilmarx, David Lindahl, Don Metz, Robin Model-Lornitzo, Pete Mulvihill, Don Nelson (representing the DOC), Beatriz Pastor, Tony Ryan, Peter Spiegel, Trent Toensing and Doug Vogt.
 - c. Public (did not speak): Peg Ackerson, Tyler Ayer, Barbara Balch, Christine Barlow, Russell Barns, Dan Brand, Judy Brotman, Don Cutter, Phil Elder, Tom Frawley, Peter Gamble, Sandy Green, John Griesemer, Russell Hirschler, Patty Jenks, Hap Johnson, Ben Kilham, Jessica Lahey, Carl Longshore, Jim Mason, Scott May, John Morton, Bob Owen, Jane Owen, Wayne Pike, Cathie Redpath, Brian Rich, Jodie Rich, Tyler Rich, David Roby, Bret Ryan, Sue Ryan, C. Jay Smith, Janet Baker Smith, Lynn Smith, Todd Wagner, Jim Weinstein, Mimi Weinstein, Boyce Wing and Stan Witkowski.

In addition to those attending, 14 e-mails were received from members of the public with comments on the issues to be discussed.

2. Simon first discussed the purpose of the special meeting saying that it was being held in response to a petition to limit users of the Dorchester Road east of the Skiway during “mud season” to residents only. He pointed out that NH law did not permit such action. He also said that the Board was seeking public input and would not be making any decisions at this meeting.
3. Twenty members of the public spoke at the meeting. Major comments included:
 - a. This last year’s “mud season” was more severe than normal and resulted in the road being impassable or marginally passable at times causing great inconvenience to residents. Some felt that this was primarily a result of increased traffic associated with skiers going to Dorchester, others to the very nature of gravel roads in “mud season”, and still others to the Town’s maintenance practices.
 - b. Excessive speed for the road conditions and failure to keep to the right (to allow vehicles going in the opposite direction to pass) by some drivers was cited as a reason to limit who should be permitted to use the road.

- c. Some felt that the recreational development in Dorchester over the last several years was and “attractive nuisance” while others said they had been x-country skiing there for over 30-years and praised Green Woodlands for its improvements and making its land available for public use.
 - d. The need to make increased information on road and skiing conditions available was recommended by many speakers. Suggestions included: better signage at the intersection by the Skyway, web page or e-mail notice of current conditions, and a telephone number with a message on current conditions.
 - e. Many speakers recommended better education of x-country skiers on road conditions and driving courtesy as the preferred “solution”. Major improvements to the road were considered undesirable.
4. Simon closed the meeting by thanking those in attendance and those making suggestions. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

R. G. Jones
recorder