

Town of Lyme
Board of Selectmen
Minutes for July 7, 2011

1. At 8:00 AM Charles opened the meeting. The following attended part or all of the meeting: Charles Ragan (chair), Simon Carr (member), Richard Vidal (Member), Dina Cutting (Administrative Assistant), Shaun O'Keefe (Police Chief) and Patty Jenks (Town Clerk).
2. The following administrative matters were discussed and actions taken:
 - a. The minutes of the meeting of June 30th were approved as submitted.
 - b. A manifest for \$308,882.33 was signed. This included \$250,000 for the school.
 - c. A Timber Tax Warrant was signed for Katherine Perkins-Piper for \$2,013.86 on Map 404 Lot 67.
 - d. A cemetery double lot sale to Raymond and Beverley Balch was approved.
 - e. An elderly exemption for Mary Chapman was approved and signed.
 - f. The Board discussed the recent State road improvements and agreed to write to the State, requesting an island at the High St/Route 10 intersection as originally shown and a "Stop Ahead" sign before the bend in East Thetford Rd, approaching Route 10.
 - g. Simon and Patty reported on the Anniversary Committee meeting of Tuesday July 5. They were concerned about the take-up on the dinner sales. There had been concern expressed about safety for the planned "run from the four corners" which was being coordinated with the Recreation Commission. Dina said that they also had some concerns about this and were working with Shaun to ensure that this was completely safe.
 - h. Simon reported on the Planning Board meeting of Thursday June 30: This was primarily taken up with reviewing the master plan, but the Board had also considered the scope of work required from a soils scientist to re-survey the Loch Lyme Lodge lot.
 - i. Dina reported on the Independence Day celebrations: it had been a good evening with good fireworks but there had been less food served and they had received less in donations, although they hoped to break even. Part of the attendance issues could have been the two Valley News errors of, first, publishing an incorrect date for the event and, second, stating incorrectly in their correction that the event was for Lyme residents only.
 - j. Charles reported the CIP Committee meeting had been cancelled.
3. River Road:
 - a. Simon reported on the meeting between Peter Holden, Carola Lea, Marselis Parsons, Pete Helm (UFLT) and himself and passed out his notes of the meeting. Peter Holden had spelt out the possible options for restoring the road and the impact that this would have on the landowners. They had all walked the affected section and looked at how any road reconstruction would affect their land. In principle Carola and Marselis were likely to accept any proposed change although there would be cost impacts. The UFLT easement

does not provide for such taking of land and there would need to be negotiations to resolve this. Peter Holden will now prepare a scope of work for the Board to review and approve.

- b. Charles asked whether the Board should send out a follow-up letter responding to the petition. It was felt that we needed to have more information before we sent out such a letter.
 - c. There was some discussion regarding the likelihood of members of public coming to talk about the road and it was agreed that future agendas should show time for public comment, but that it should be emphasized at meetings that these were Selectboard meetings for the Board to discuss and consider issues and were not public hearings.
 - d. It was noted that there was some unauthorized traffic on the closed section including motorcyclists. Shaun will check that all the signs show the correct wording and will liaise with Fred in arranging for such additional jersey barriers as may be necessary.
 - e. Dina reported on the visit by NRCS staff on Tuesday July 5. They had visited the site and then discussed the issues. They recommended that the trees on the riverbank should be removed as soon as possible, although the stumps should be retained.
 - f. The Board agreed that Dina should contact Hendersons and other tree services to get a price on removing the trees. A public hearing will be required prior to the actual removal and Dina will also check that there is no requirement for a DES permit.
4. The Board reviewed the new property value appraisals and accepted them. They noted that the total change from the previous appraisals was slightly more than \$1million.
 5. At 9:03 AM Charles moved and Simon seconded that the Board go in to non-public session under the authority of RSA 91-A:3 II(c) "matters affecting the reputation of a person". The motion passed unanimously. Charles, Richard, Simon and Dina all attended the non-public session.
 - a. Dina briefed the Board on the health status of a highway department employee. The Board wished him a full and speedy recovery.
 - b. The Board returned to public session at 9:18 AM.
 6. The Board authorized Dina to advertise for a full-time temporary highway worker and indicated a likely pay range.
 7. The meeting adjourned at 9:21 AM.

Simon Carr
Recorder

River Road Timeline.

Date	Event: brief summary. Further information in BOS minutes at Town Offices
April 30/May 1, 2011	Heavy river flow washes out a portion of River Rd.
May 2, 2011	BOS meet in emergency session. Vote to authorize tree-cutting if necessary (scenic road) and vote to close road with jersey barriers.
May 5, 2011	BOS appoint Holden to undertake initial investigation.
May 19, 2011	Holden reported on two possible approaches for re-instating the road. Both options exceed the town's emergency highway CRF. The failure did not fall within FEMA funds.
May 27, 2011	Simon and Shaun meet with Grafton County Commissioner Ray Burton, Rene Pelletier (DES Wetlands Commissioner), Steve Couture (DES), Richard Roach (Army Corps of Engineers) and Bill Rossignol (Holden). It was made clear there were no state or federal funds available, also that no work could extend the bank in to the river. The advice was to move the road and stabilize the bank.
June 10, 2011	Mailing to all residents confirming that the road will currently remain closed. A public meeting will be held September 14 to lay out all the options, but any votes will have to wait until Town Meeting.
June 16 and June 23, 2011	Citizens request that the road be re-opened to single-track traffic. BOS review the costs and ask Holden to consider this option.
June 22, 2011	NRCS visits the Tullar Farm and views the road.
June 23, 2011	Holden reports that the road is not safe, even as a single-line road. NRCS writes to Shirley Tullar giving her possible grant program information. Also concurs in not re-opening the road.
June 27, 2011	Shirley Tullar passes NRCS information to Selectman Simon Carr.
June 28 and June 29, 2011	BOS staff (Dina) contact NRCS, submit initial verbal notification of application for funds, subsequently followed up with emailed notification to ensure application is within 60 day limit.
July 5, 2011	NRCS staff visits the site and discuss the procedures with staff in respect of the town application for funds. Peter Holden and Simon Carr meet with the adjoining landowners and Upper Valley Land Trust to discuss the possible relocation of the road and the effect of this on their land. Following their provisional agreement, Holden will now prepare a proposed scope of work for submission to the Board.