

TOWN OF LYME
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
PUBLIC MEETING
FEBRUARY 1, 2012 7:00 PM LYME SCHOOL CAFETERIA

Attending:

Selectmen: Charles Ragan, Chair, Simon Carr, Richard Vidal

Staff: Dina Cutting, Administrative Assistant; William Waste, Moderator ;Fred Stearns, Road Agent; Chief Shaun O'Keefe, Patty Jenks, Town Clerk

Members of the Public: Jeff Valence, John & Donna Andersen, Janet & Jay Smith, Richard Jones, Susan MacKenzie, Carola Lea, Richard & Delores Drew, Jim Jenks, Tom Kent, Garry Thrasher, Laurie Wadsworth, Frank Bowles, Tim Cook, John & Ellen Barrett, Jennifer Cooke, Mike & Jean Smith, Dan Brand, John & Sandy Torget, Stephanie Carney, Paul Munn, Charlotte Furstenberg, Julia Elder, Andrea Colgan, John Mudge, Maggie Minnock, Robin Taylor, David Kotz, Anna Super, Jan Williams, David Levintow, Marselis Parsons, Greg & Sue Hanlon, Steve Maddock, Walter Wetherell, Frank Gould, Bob Barnum, Bill Malcolm, Duncan Macintosh, Chris Jackson, Dan O'Hara, Becky Lovejoy, Kevin Peterson, Jay Cary, Howard Southworth, Tom Turkington, Harry & Jackie Glass, Jane Fant, James Graham, Peter Mulvihill, Gillian Tyler, Geoff Little, 2 gentlemen unknown to the recorder. (apprx 60 members of the public)

Bill Waste called this PUBLIC MEETING to order at 7:00 pm for the purpose of discussing proposed warrant articles for the repair of the River Road in front of Marselis Parsons' and Carola Lea's property.

Bill instructed that this was an informational meeting only. No decisions or votes would be taken. In keeping with a long tradition held by Lyme voters, comments would be addressed to the moderator for recognition, and civility and respect in all discussions would be observed. No personal attacks would be tolerated-the focus would be specific to Town Meeting procedure and the warrant articles in question.

Charles Ragan, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen welcomed attendees and invited Selectman Simon Carr to continue with a brief synopsis of the timeline and activities having to do with the road closure and remedial action to date. Simon provided a brief summary which included the fact that there was no FEMA money realized by the weather event causing the road damage.

Following Simon's explanation, the meeting was opened to a period of questions and answers. Questions and comments were heard by the following: Duncan Macintosh, John and Donna Andersen, Peter Mulvihill, Tom Kent, James Graham, Bill Malcolm, Chris Jackson, Frank Bowles, John Torget, Dick Jones, John Mudge. Topics included but are not limited to: The warrant articles and what they mean and what happens if they fail at town meeting, clarification of \$90,000.00 expenditure to be used for new engineering efforts if vote is not passed at town meeting, restructuring the proposed articles in to two separate articles, permitting issues, eminent domains issues, potential problems in other areas of River Road and different roads in Lyme, breakdown of

estimate to do the road work, local businesses adversely affected by closure-could one lane be opened?, the cost effectiveness and efficiency of completing the road repairs as a whole, rather than creating a one-lane or temporary pass way, the specific safety concerns preventing the immediate opening of the road, the restrictions placed on the town by the laws of New Hampshire which are very strict about procedure and regulation in situations such as this and the concern of depleting the Emergency Highway Reserve Fund. The landowners whose property would be the most greatly affected were thanked for their generous and patient support through all this.

Responses to the comments and/or questions were consistent with previous responses in that the Board of Selectmen, must operate within the guidelines of the municipal law and in doing so follow the advice of town council and state representatives. Costs associated with engineering design are consistent and have been investigated, estimates for repair have been researched and analyzed, State of New Hampshire officials (including state engineers, Ray Burton, Wetlands officials) have been consulted, plans for the proposed repairs have been permitted by the State-any changes would require more time and money. The Budget Committee will meet in two weeks to review the project plan and move to recommend or not recommend the warrant articles. The eminent domain issue in this case is not a contentious matter-rather a procedural requirement as set forth because of the Upper Valley Land Trust involvement.

There being no further comment or questions Bill thanked everyone for coming and adjourned this meeting at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patty Jenks for the Board of Selectmen