

TOWN OF LYME  
Select Board Meeting  
November 10, 2015  
10:00AM

Town Office Conference Room  
Approved: November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015

The following were present for part or all of the meeting: Susan J. MacKenzie (Chair), Patricia G. Jenks (member), Charles J. Smith (member), Charles Hirschberg & Brian Vincent (CLD Engineering). David Roby & John Stadler (Community members). Dina Cutting (Administrative Assistant).

1. Chair MacKenzie opened the meeting at 10:00AM
2. The board reviewed financial information with CLD Engineers and discussed further testing needed to gather the necessary information to develop options for the repair and/or re-routing of River Road. The board needs to consider how much funding to put into collecting the data and if the options are fiscally realistic for the Town to consider. The engineers need to gather as much information as possible to enable informed decisions.
3. MacKenzie reviewed the goals for this meeting and noted the purpose of the meeting was not to re-open a discussion of making this section of the River Road a class VI road. Until the Select Board has proof that this section is safe to travel on it will remain closed for everyone's safety. Followed was a discussion with Mr. Roby concerning the options CLD Engineering feels are possibilities if they have all the data to consider. CLD expressed the importance of finding out where the ledge is and that this plays an important part in what may or may not be a viable solution for this dilemma. The Board is asking Mr. Roby permission to perform the necessary testing on this property, currently owned by a Trust of which he is the Trustee.
4. Mr. Roby wanted to make sure the board heard his concern about damaging the aesthetics of this property. He has reservations about equipment being used to perform the test pits and borings. He doesn't want this kind of equipment on the upper portion of the bank.
5. Mr. Roby expressed an idea to form a group "the Friends of River Road" and possibly help financially with the maintenance of this road. It is clear River Road will continue to present great financial challenges for the town. All present supported the idea of creating a fund-raising effort toward the rehabilitation and maintenance of this historical roadway and encouraged Mr. Roby to follow up with the idea.
6. Mr. Stadler expressed concern that if this road was rerouted through the property under consideration that it would be impacting his neighborhood negatively. The board reviewed the possible sites that could be used and assured him that there would be trees remaining and vehicle headlight issues would be considered.
7. Both Mr. Stadler and Mr. Roby felt it would be beneficial if a larger group of experts were brought together to explore the options.
8. Mr. Roby again expressed concern that the testing and option of rerouting the road not affect the aesthetics of this property negatively. He noted he will be selling this land to Arend Tensen and need to consider this.
9. Mr. Roby then encouraged the Board to reconsider changing the "slump" area to class VI road with signage "pass at your own risk." He felt the classification and signage would absolve the town of liability. He also wondered if a better monitoring system could be used to know if any changes in the stability of the road are happening. This led to an extensive discussion of expert opinion and legal advice, ending with the engineers from CLD indicating they had been instructed by the owner of the company that no one from the firm was to drive that expanse of roadway because of the instability of the road. The board reiterated that they would not open this road for safety reasons.

TOWN OF LYME  
Select Board Meeting  
November 10, 2015  
10:00AM

Town Office Conference Room  
Approved: November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015

10. CLD reviewed the tests needed and the type of information they would be getting from these tests. After a lengthy discussion the following was agreed to:
- CLD Engineering, Willis Engineering and the Town's Highway crew will be performing the work.
  - CLD will flag all the test pits and invite Mr. Roby to review and approve the placements prior to testing being done.
  - The probes in the road right away can be done.
  - Flag the possible alternate route.
  - A suspension bridge for the River Road slump would be considered and investigated as an option for Mrs. Roby. (Barbara's memorial bridge)
  - The development of the "Friends of River Road" will be considered; possibly helping to defray the cost of a meeting of experts for the purpose of collecting and considering all possible options. They will need the data collected from the test pits, borings and soil information to make any kind of determination by these experts.
11. The board thanked Mr. Roby for agreeing to the testing.
12. Mr. Stadler noted he feels boxed in because of how quickly the closing of the road happened and noted concerns with how it was handled.
13. There being no further business at 11:45AM Smith moved to adjourn. Seconded by Jenks. Voted unanimously in favor.

Respectfully Submitted  
Dina Cutting