



TOWN OF NEWTOWN

Draft Minutes of the Legislative Council Ad Hoc Committee for Policy and Planning of Roads Meeting

The Roads Committee met on Wednesday, November 4, 2015 in the Municipal Center, 3 Primrose Lane, Newtown Room 1. Committee Chairman Anthony Filiato called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Present: Anthony Filiato, Mary Ann Jacobs & Eva Bermudez,

Also in attendance: Director of Public Works Fred Hurley, Anthony Klabonski & John Hatedt.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motioned made by Mr. Filiato Seconded by Mr. Klabonski, unanimous approval.

NEW BUSINESS: Discussion

Mr. Filiato opened the discussion:

The charge we were given, the topic is extremely large and the best we could do to guide the questions for further inquiry. Mary Ann agreed that we had no authority to act in terms of writing ordinances or drafting policy that would be up to Board of Selectman and Legislative Council.

Three main recommendations:

- a. The Town should pave all the unpaved roads
- b. The Town should assess the current legal status of the private associations and take the "abandoned" roads
- c. Public Works and the Town Engineer should develop a tier categorization of Town roads and develop a long term plan for moving the needle from 50% to 80% of all roads meeting current standings

Overall the Town needs to act objectively in best interest of all residents and economics and roads should be prioritized by Mr. Hurley at DPW by condition and overall convenience to the town and budget availability.

Mr. Filiato mentioned that he will make sure that all the supporting documents and research will be included to the recommendation binder including Mr. Sibley's flow chart example that was presented during a previous Roads committee meeting.

Ms. Bermudez requested that the recommendation include clear next steps to the public and what this recommendation does and doesn't do.

Mr. Hurley assured that land use and engineering will be involved in the process.

Mr. Filiato was able to talk to Jared Schwartz from legal Cohen & Wolfe for draft revision, the requested more time for a comprehensive review of draft recommendation.

Ms. Jacobs discussed next steps, we aim to approve final draft recommendation by November 17, after approval it will then go for approval of the Board of Selectmen. The BOS can either accept and approve, reject or send back to the Ad Hoc Roads committee for modification of the recommendation. Ms. Jacobs reminded the group that we have to make sure we leave the work to the professionals and recommendation should guide the process.

Mr. Filiato inquired about the makeup of the board after the recent elections. Mary Ann responded that since the board is appointed everyone could despite new political appointments until the Board of Selectmen had relived the group of their charge.

OLD BUSINESS: Discussion

There was mention of what will happen to the Bridges and funding, Mr. Hurley explained that the Bridges are no longer bonded. Mary Ann mentioned that neither this group nor Legislative Council has the authority to make bonding decisions.

The roads plans will be done in phases and it may be a long time before the roads are completed and paved.

DPW needs the flexibility to do the work they need to do and whichever ordinance is crafted should allow this.

Mr. Filiato mentioned that other towns do it differently and add roads dirt and private language in there charter for example Glastonbury; our charter is fine and does not create any conflicts.

Mr. Klabonski inquired about the current way roads are prioritized to be worked on he also asked that once this recommendation is in motion how do you prioritize the projects that will be worked on.

Mr. Hurley explained that the department has a master "book of roads" with regulations and ordinances made by the town and the state that he follows and they decide on which projects to work on are always: main drags, bus routes, commuter routes, and connectors. Then there are always the unknowns and emergencies that may come up.

Further conversations of Associations: In regard to Association roads each group will have to review their own bylaws on how they update and pave roads. Some associations own all roads in there designated are others for liability reason request each home owner be in charge of the plot in form of them and other areas are part private part town owned. The town is willing to work with each association individually once they make decisions in regards to what they would like to do. Ms. Jacobs and Mr. Filiato both pointed out that this is costly to the town adding additional roads to service and it wouldn't be a benefit but either was options are available.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Mr. Filiato motioned to adjourn at 7:00pm Ms. Jacobs seconded, unanimously passed.

Action items: After all parties review extensively the draft recommendation and committee completes it the goal is recommendation to be submitted to Board of Selectman by at least November 18th for the possible approval. This includes review for legal Cohen & Wolfe.

Respectfully Submitted,

Eva Bermudez
Ad Hoc Committee on Roads Secretary

Attachments: Supporting documents on roads passed out during meeting.
These minutes are subject to approval by the Legislative Council at the next regular ad hoc Roads Committee meeting. All corrections will be determined in minutes of the meeting at which they were corrected.

