

**MINUTES
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MAY 22, 2006**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM

Present: Arnold Wilson, Harold White, William Emrich, Steven Halterman,
Edward Goodwin

Also Present: James Malloy, Town Administrator, Greg Morse, DPW Director

G. Morse explained the proposed work on McGilpin Road in three phases starting on the south end at Fiske Hill Road.

A. Wilson asked if trees are marked. G. Morse indicated they were, but that the marks are fading.

Todd Cave, 99 McGilpin Road – asked about Phase I and if it was just section that was already paved and whether it could go over the hill so the dirt doesn't wash down the hill. G. Morse said they would attempt to go that far. T. Cave asked about slopes at his property, there is about a 2½ foot wall – is there a possibility that the road could be shifted by moving telephone poles on the other side. G. Morse indicated we could try but that it might be difficult to get the utilities to move the poles.

Kirstie Pecci, 138 McGilpin Road – Asked if we were talking about all three phases, if so she felt we were making an assumption the road needed to be 21 feet wide throughout. G. Morse indicated that the current road widths are not wide enough for fire trucks, snow plows and/or school buses and other vehicles.

T. Goodwin asked if the DPW could leave sections that would taper in to narrower widths to maintain the aesthetics of the neighborhood? G. Morse indicated that they could and would as possible, but that there would need to be substantial transitions to gradually narrow the road width.

Susan Kline, 18 McGilpin Road – Stated that a truck was recently stuck and with more houses being built and more traffic on the road, this was going to happen more often. She felt the road should be wide enough for trucks.

Matt Lafond, 106 McGilpin Road – Said there was a moving van in front of his house for awhile and people couldn't get around it. He stated he wants the road to maintain its look as much as possible, but that it needed to be wide enough for vehicles to pass safely.

Polly Courier, 13 McGilpin Road – Stated the Town should try to preserve the stone walls and trees. She asked why there is no posted speed limit. J. Malloy indicated that it would likely require a study to develop the appropriate speed limit or the Town could post a “thickly settled” sign, which was a legal 30 mph speed limit.

Stan Cooper, 106 McGilpin Road stated that he bought a house because of the character of the road and felt staking the road was done in a careless manner. He stated the residents there live on a country road.

Nancy McDevitt, 96 McGilpin Road stated that she’s lived in Sturbridge all of her life and has lived on McGilpin Road for 9 years and that it’s not an old farm road anymore and recommended that the Town follow the DPW Director’s recommendations as the professional responsible for making the road safe.

A. Wilson summed up the discussion so far as the road being between 19 and 21 feet wide, tapered in places to try to protect trees and stone walls and if possible to move telephone poles to provide sufficient space for the road and to include drainage at the 21 foot width.

A. Wilson asked what the timetable was. G. Morse indicated that he’d like to get Phase I of the project underway this year, perhaps in July. G. Morse indicated that he has to work on the drainage and scenic road bylaw issues related to trees.

A. Wilson asked what the timetable was for Phase II of the project. G. Morse indicated it would be in 2007. A. Wilson asked what the approximate bounds of Phase II were. G. Morse indicated that it was essentially the gravel part of the road.

Brian Galonek, 112 McGilpin Road stated he was in favor of paving the road and applauded the Town for their efforts in getting resident’s opinions on this issue and listening to the residents. B. Galonek stated some of the trees are dead and need to be removed for safety reasons as well as the road project.

Audrey Rose, 113 McGilpin Road stated huge trees in her area are marked to be removed. G. Morse indicated the Public Works Department would work to retain as many trees as possible while getting the necessary widths by moving the road bounds as much as possible.

There was some discussion on remarking the trees and G. Morse indicated that trees that were hazardous and/or dead and need to be removed would be marked with orange paint and that trees that were proposed to be removed to widen the

road will be marked with blue paint. It was suggested the trees be numbered in these color paints so that any concerns residents had could be identified by tree number.

Kirstie Pecci noted her preference was for the Town not to widen the road.

Jackie Cooper, 127 McGilpin Road asked if drainage work in future phases could be squeezed in to Phase I so that the residents don't have the muddy situation to deal with. G. Morse said that they will try but that with the other work planned around town, it may be difficult, but they will try.

It was asked again if the Town will install "Thickly Settled" signs and whether "Slow Children" signs can be installed and when this might be. J. Malloy stated that he will look into it.

This part of the discussion ended. **T. Goodwin moved that the Board go into executive session under MGL Ch. 39, §23B (2) to hear complaints against an employee, and not to reconvene in open session. Seconded by H. White. Voted 5-0.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

BOS Clerk

Date