

Approved

Minutes of the September 11, 2012
Select Board Meeting

Present: Matt Dwire, Bill Callnan, Mary Just Skinner, Peter Hood, Mary Alexander, Cindy Carlson

The Board conducted a site visit of the Class 4 section of McCullough Hill at 5:30 pm.

Public Hearing to consider upgrading the Class 4 section of McCullough Hill Road to Class 3 called to order at 6:20 pm. The meeting will be held for 60 minutes and if additional time is needed then a continuance will be held.

A letter from Bob & Scottie Brower letter was read.

The Board is asked explain what improvements would be done to improve the road to a Class 3. The proposal is to cut brush, improve some ditching and some resurfacing. The shoulder will be widened to make the road safer. The width of the travel lane will not be out of the Town's right-of-way. It is expected to be approximately \$5,000 cost. Three different options to improve this section of road were reviewed. The proposed option is the most economical. The road is being travelled as a Class 3 road, and the Board is concerned about safety. The Board feels there is a potential liability issue for the Town since the road is opened year round. The Board is asked what has changed since the period when the Town Attorney advised the Board not to block the road for the winter months. The Board feels the use has increased in recent years and the question of improving the road should be revisited.

Comments:

The road signs are a deterrent in the winter. Removing the signs will increase traffic on the road.

The road is used as a shortcut, especially during the spring.

There are concerns about doing limited improvements now and then a few years down the road a major improvements being mandated.

There are cost savings for the Town to use the road in winter months.

Class 4 road should mean a quieter scenic road, over the past several years with the improvements that have been done to the road have caused increased traffic. There are some serious mud holes on the road and there are other roads that the Town's resources could be better used.

Concerns that the Board is setting a precedent by improving this section and Class 4 roads are a resource for recreation.

If the Road is upgraded not a lot of additional work should be done to the road and signs to discourage travel on the road during the winter months.

It is a possibility that less traffic will travel down Brook Road and Center Road during mud season if there is a third route.

There are no traffic studies for the road, but it is the feeling of the Board that traffic through Town has increased over the past few years.

The Board states that there are many Class 3 roads in Town that are in the same condition as McCullough Hill. The Town does not have the resources to change the character of the Class 4 section in the near future. The Board responsibility is to maintain the road and be concerned about safety for all residents. There are areas on that needs ditching and brush cutting. The Town would receive additional State funding if the Class 4 section is improved to Class 3.

If the road is Class 3 during a major flood FEMA will reimburse for any flood damage and if it is a Class 4 there would be no FEMA funding.

If the road is changed to Class 3 residents could petition the Board to downgrade the section back to Class 4. If we go to Class 3, then the Town should install signs about winter travel.

Residents state that the recent erosion control and ditching is very much appreciated.

Public Hearing adjourns at 7:20 pm.

Board meeting called to order at 7:20 pm

Present: Matt Dwire, Bill Callnan, Mary Just Skinner, Peter Hood, Mary Alexander, Fritz Haupt, Paul Cerminara, Steve Martin, Patrick Flood, Dave Burley, Cindy Carlson

Fritz Haupt – Middlesex Fire Department

The Fire Department has received a dry hydrant grant in the amount of \$2,500 for 3-Mile Bridge Road. The costs are higher than expected, \$3100. Special materials are needed to install the dry hydrant due to its proximity to propane tanks. The hydrant will be on Dubois Construction property. The Fire Department is asking for \$600 towards the project. Dubois Construction is donating some labor to the project. The Fire Department will be asking for assistance from other businesses for additional dry hydrants in the near future

Motion: Bill moves to approve up to \$600 from the discretionary fund for the installation of a dry hydrant on 3-Mile Bridge Road. Matt seconds, motion carries.

Paul Cerminara – Steve Martin – Highway Department

The Board is presented with estimates for the 3 test sites for “mud season”. The bids are higher than originally expected. Based on these estimates it would cost approximately \$1,000,000 to improve one mile of road. It is the recommendation of Paul and Steve to reject all the bids and revisit at a future date. Three bids were received from contractors that attended the mandatory pre-bid meeting. Steve, Paul and Matt will discuss options and come back to the Board with a recommendation at the next meeting on 9/25/12.

Patrick Flood, – State of Vermont Commissioner of Mental Health, David Burley – General Services and Frank Reed, Director of Operations

An application has been submitted to Zoning Board of Adjustment to construct a 7-bed mental health facility. A hearing has been scheduled for September 26th. The proposal is for a modular unit to be located at the property adjacent to the State Police. It will be a fenced facility, with approximately 35-40 staff between three shifts. A 25-bed facility is being constructed in Berlin and it is possible that there will be room at that facility to house this 7-bed facility in the future. The State is open to adopting language with a time frame to remove the facility built in. A similar agreement was made with the Town of Morrisville for the facility that is being built there. There is potential that it will increase the Town’s PILOT payment from the State. David will check on this and report back to the Board. The people that would be housed at this location are no longer acute patients. They still need supervision from staff, and are not quite ready to be released back on their own. The Board asks that a Press Release be published by the State.

Other Business

All Orders are signed

Zoning Administrator – A discussion was held with Al Quesnel concerning the rate of pay and procedures of the Zoning Administrator. Al did not accept the position due to the rate of pay. The Board discusses the options to hire a Zoning Administrator and other candidates that submitted resumes. **Motion:** Bill moves to appoint Cindy Carlson as Zoning Administrator. Matt seconds. The Board discusses concerns of consolidating positions with one person and the perception with in the community. Bringing the Zoning Administrator position into the office will allow residents access during working hours. The Board is concerned about paying a Zoning Administrator a higher rate of pay than other positions within the Town. Cindy's rate of pay will not be adjusted. Motion carries.

Cindy is authorized to hire an administrative assistant with the possibility of up to 21 hours per week. Duties will be distributed to the assistant to reduce Cindy's work load.

Paul Cerminara has offered to continue to mow the band stand area for \$50.00 each mowing. The Board is in agreement to authorize him to mow for the rest of the season.

Correspondence

A notice from Washington County Clerk's office of a meeting to discuss the new power plant with the State of Vermont and the City of Montpelier.

The Board agrees to vote on the potential highway improvements at the 10/9/12 meeting.

Meeting Adjourns at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Carlson
Select Board Assistant