

Select Board Highway Subcommittee

Meeting Minutes, May 25, 2023

Present: Select Board members John Stevens and Merry Kay Shernock. Others present, Town Manager Jeff Schulz, Highway Foreman Trent Tucker, Central Street resident Katharine deSousa.

The meeting started at 4:30 PM.

Public Participation Scheduled: None

Central Street Safety Issues

Jeff Schulz stated that residents on Central Street have expressed concerns regarding vehicles speeding on the Street. In addition, a Central Street resident (Katherine deSousa) submitted a report discussing the issue and with recommendations to slow traffic, including speed bumps and humps. This meeting is to discuss Katherine's report and potential options to reduce speeding on the street.

Jeff Schulz added that over the past two years the Police Department has on occasion set up the Town's speed monitoring unit on the street and has performed speed checks. In general, the Police found that most motorists weren't speeding on the Street.

Next, Katherine deSousa suggested adding signs on the street stating "warning, children at play" and installing another crosswalk near South Street. Trent Tucker noted that the additional crosswalk may need to be at Washington Street due to the lack of handicap sidewalks. Jeff agreed to add the warning signs and install the crosswalk with signs.

Next, the group discussed the installation of speed bumps on the street. Jeff noted that last year with the paving of the street there was some reluctance to install temporary speed bumps because of the need to install metal spikes into the street. In addition, there is concern regarding plowing issues. There was discussion regarding the installation of larger heavy temporary speed bump mates that would not need spikes. Jeff agreed to investigate the temporary speed bump mates.

Highway Projects

Next, Jeff Schulz and Highway Foreman Trent Tucker discussed upcoming highway projects and noted that the Highway Department plans to do gravel road resurfacing on Halstrom and Monti Roads. Based on the location, drainage, and clay soils, Halstrom will require extensive work, it will involve tree removal, new culverts, and stone-line

ditching. In addition, it should have five to six inches of gravel. The Town did receive approximately \$40,000 in grant funding for gravel roads (hydrologically connected roads) that likely can be used to cover a portion of the Halstrom Road expenses. Trent Tucker noted that tree removal along Halstrom is an important part of the project, and he has obtained a tree removal quote of \$7,000 per mile from Limlaw. Jeff added that some residents on the road are opposed to the tree removal, and as a result, we will work with the property owners to determine which trees to cut.

There are also several extensive ditching projects planned to include Turkey Hill, Gravey Hill, and several smaller areas.

In addition, several bridges need wood deck repairs or replacement. The second covered bridge on Cox Brook needs both decking repairs and structural work to the bridge which was hit by a truck. The Highway Department will do the deck work. The structural repairs will be completed by an outside contractor. We are obtaining a quote for the structural repairs. Trent is installing signs in Moretown (with their approval) warning motorists of the low covered bridges ahead to reduce trucks hitting the covered bridges.

Also, the wood planks on the foot bridge need repairing and replacement. Jeff noted that the Highway Department repaired several bridge planks to make it safe for pedestrians, however, the entire bridge decking needs replacing. The Highway Department does not have the equipment to replace the decking and we have obtained a quote to replace the deck. We have obtained two quotes: one using traditional pressure treated wood decking at a cost of about \$60,000, and a quote using more specialized long lasting deck material for about \$80,000.

Upcoming road paving projects include West Hill, the southerly entrance to Mill Street and several locations on north Main Street. Also, there is a plan to pave Cherry Street, which is a short street off Vine Street. There was discussion of also paving East Street, however, Jeff noted that it will depend on whether the work to place the electric power lines underground is completed this summer.

Public Participation Unscheduled: None

Motion to adorn by John Stevens, second by Merry Shernock.

Jeff Schulz, Town Manager

