

Town Of Litchfield
Road Committee Minutes
Wednesday, May 21, 2014

Location: Town Office

Attendance: Richard Lane, Tamas Szepsy, Brian Emmons, George Thomson, Steve Ochmanski, Cyndi Redmond Dan Craft and Larry Nadeau

Item 1: Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Richard Lane at 5:30 PM.

Item 2: Acceptance of the Minutes of March 19, 2014 was moved by Rick and seconded by Larry and accepted by all.

Item 3: Scheduled Business

We had Mike Needham from C.H. Stevenson here to talk about a Cold Mix Asphalt Mix that he sells. His presentation was very convincing. Larry Nadeau had his hands in the mix and was feeling that it was a good product. We are going to see if we can get some actual prices to be able to compare with the hot asphalt. A few of the committee is planning on taking a trip to Fayette and Chesterville. According to Mike Needham he seems to feel that we will have less cracking problems in our roads. He also made a point that it is easier to patch Cold Mix than hot top. He is willing to come ride our roads with Steve and measure them. He is willing to give us suggestions as to what really needs to be done to each road. He also said that it will last 8 years and if you chip seal it after that period of time you can get another 6 – 7 years out of the surface. We are interested in doing more research with this product to see if it will really do what it claims especially the price being claimed at 1/3 less than hot top asphalt.

George brought up the issue of culverts and the ordinance that Litchfield is only allowed to use steel culverts even though the plastic ones last longer and are less expensive. The life of the ADS pipe for a culvert can be up to 88 years provided it is installed correctly with 18" of gravel over the top and packed down. Litchfield is one of the very few if any other towns that still require steel culverts. If we revise this ordinance it will save residents and the town money.

Larry also brought up that in that same ordinance is required that a 3% grade on a driveway within 25' of the road. When putting in a driveway becomes prohibitive as you must blast the rock (which Litchfield has plenty of) out to be able to meet that 3 % grade. Larry feels that having the ordinance say something more to the amount of 5-10% would be better. We will be exploring this idea further.

Discussion of stopping winter maintenance on certain roads in town this year and all maintenance with voting of town meeting in 2015. Having the selectmen authorize no winter maintenance on those roads at their next meeting.

Ongoing discussion of 5, 10 and 15 year plan. We need to have more information to be able to put dollar amounts to our plans. An idea of about 10% of the roads will have some work per year was discussed. We need to get a better handle on what the town

has been spending so far with the town maintenance garage and line item costs to have jobs done.

Setting goals for town maintained roads, ID good roads, moderate roads, and awful roads as we go out and get driving especially with Phil Curtis.

We need to do a culvert count. Ron needs to be involved.

The town has to appropriate money each year.

Some figures roughly put out are how much for paving 10% of our roads per year
\$210,000?

\$70,000 - \$100,000 for road maintenance?

Criteria to not maintain roads that do not meet Road Use Ordinance?

Item 4: Unscheduled Business

Steve got us each a copy of the comprehensive plan.

Item 5: Meeting Times

Next meeting June 18, 2014 at 5:30

Item 6: Future Agenda Items

Setting up time and date with Phil to drive the Litchfield Roads for learning to survey and grading the quality of the roads.

Item 7: Adjourn Meeting: Richard made a motion to adjourn and George seconded it, at 7 PM. All agreed.