

Town Of Litchfield  
Road Committee Minutes  
Wednesday, June 18, 2014

Location: Town Office

Attendance: Richard Lane, Tamas Szepsy, Brian Emmons, George Thomson, Steve Ochmanski, Cyndi Redmond 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 May 21, 2014 was moved by Rick and seconded by Larry and accepted by all.

Item 3: Scheduled Business

Larry and George went out to survey the town roads with Phil Curtis. It was a great education for both of them that they then brought back to our meeting and worked with us. We started with a few terms to be able to grade our roads. Different types of cracking, Alligator longitudinal and edge cracking. Also how big the cracks are low, medium and high varying from very narrow through  $\frac{3}{4}$ " and more.

The major key that came back to us is that most of our roads (at least 85%) do not have good drainage. If there is not good drainage it harms the underpinnings of the road and ruins the road in a much shorter time frame than should be. Culverts and proper ditching are some of the first culprits that need to be looked at. Most of the road committee went out to the Upper Pond Road and did an inspection to see first hand some of what George and Larry experienced with Phil. This road according to Phil was our worst road in town.

Because of finances we need to do road maintenance before we consider paving anything. A road such as Upper Pond Rd will have the drainage dealt with first, then once that issue is taken care of we can look at paving the road. It may take more than one maybe even 2 years before it gets paved. When this happens our roads should last longer and be easier to maintain.

We are looking at the truck traffic on each road, such as both Libby Rd and Buker Rd have high truck traffic. One 80,000 pound dump truck traveling our road once equals 10,000 cars.

A brief discussion of the cold top vs. hot top and cost also took place. One of the things that was not discussed at the meeting with Mike Needham was the maintenance for the cold top must be done every couple of years which pushes the cost of that up.

We have a few pieces of machinery in our yard that are not being used. A discussion ensued about making sure that we have trained maintenance people on our payroll vs. contracting the work out. Which would make more sense financially? Would it make financial sense to hire an engineer to design our roads so that we don't have to have that expertise on our staff? The bottom line is that if we can get our roads done correctly to start out with it will be less expensive to maintain them in the long run.

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. We are looking at these roads: Beaver Dr, Mill Rd, Jungle Lane, John Tarr Rd, Dingley Rd, Huff Mills Rd, and Gustin Rd.

**Item 4: Unscheduled Business**

Study of drainage at Upper Pond Rd.

**Item 5: Meeting Times**

Next meeting July 16, 2014 at 5:30

**Item 6: Future Agenda Items**

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