

Town Of Litchfield
Road Committee Minutes
Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Location: Town Office

Attendance: Richard Lane, Tamas Szepsy, 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 August 20, 2014
was moved by Rick and seconded by Tom and accepted by all.

Item 3: Scheduled Business

Mention of stopping winter maintenance on certain roads in town this year and the importance that we all attend a special town meeting Tuesday, September 30, 2014 at 6:30 at the town office. This is to notify and discuss with the town's people what needs to happen and why.

There was a discussion of the condition of our equipment. We need to assess that and as we get closer to some sort of budget for the roads, making sure we are budgeting in new equipment when needed also repairs on what we do have. The question was asked of what is the criteria of when the plows come out during a snow storm. Who sets that criteria and is it best for our town monetarily.

In setting goals for town maintained roads, we had discussed at our last meeting having an engineer to lay out our roads. With the changes that have happened having Larry Nadeau go on board as the foreman at our town garage, it was mentioned in our meeting that maybe it would not be necessary to hire an engineer as Larry knows how to use a transit to find the lowest points in the road for where culverts should be. This needs further discussion.

We discussed the roads that need repair and some of them that are in the worst shape. We know that the worst of the roads i.e. Upper Pond Rd may take several years to fix completely due to extreme costs. It is not worth fixing a road surface if the underlying gravel, ditching, culverts aren't fixed first. It was mentioned that when we decide to start on a road that a meeting should be called to invite the residents on that road to participate. It would give them a time line of what the town can afford. Open communication is a good way to create patience.

Item 4: Unscheduled Business

Larry brought up that the town has got almost all of the winter sand/salt mixture in the garage. Town's people are allowed to grab a bucket or 2 for their personal use only on their driveways or walkways. It was also mentioned that the town pit is empty except for what the town purchases and puts there. The town people should not be taking that for personal use as it is for repair of the road, that the town is stockpiling just for that reason such as when we have road washouts. We discussed finding another place to put our stockpile so that the town's people will see that the pit is really empty.

Discussion of setting standards for gravel use on our roads. Discussion of where it should be stockpiled or if we should stockpile it at all. With the possibility setting up agreements with different pits to be able to purchase whenever we need it.

It was mentioned that Steve and Larry are planning on attending a class about bridges. Possibly coming back with information on how to put in inexpensive bridges where we now have huge culverts that need replacing.

Item 5: Meeting Times

Next meeting October 15, 2014 at 5:30

Item 6: Future Agenda Items

We need to do a culvert count. We need to finish identifying the grade for each road, good roads, moderate roads, and awful roads. Then deciding which road we will aim to tackle first. We will be looking at our present road ordinance to see where we can strengthen it to make our roads better and easier to maintain. Also looking at any grinding in town of hot top can it be owned by the town?

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

