

Greetings from your Select Board....

In our ongoing effort to communicate, the Board has decided to compile and disseminate information on a quarterly basis to keep you all informed about goings on in town and progress (or lack thereof) on the many projects. This is the first quarter report for 2016. Here's what's cooking....in no particular order.....

1. River Road "slump area" bypass/reopening. Still in negotiations with the landowner. Unfortunately, we haven't been able to negotiate a satisfactory and fiscally responsible agreement as yet.
2. Riverbank stabilization near the Tullar Farm: In late February there was a failure of the bank and road. Emergency measures were taken by the town highway crew and the area has been temporarily repaired. We're now awaiting design and DES permit application for a more permanent repair. This is expected to take 3 months and if all goes well the Highway Department will do the work late this summer.
3. River Road Bridge over Hewes Brook: On 3/17/2016 we were notified that the NE "wing wall" that had been failing for a few years finally gave up and went for a swim. This failure exposed the vulnerable side of the abutment. We immediately contacted the engineers and a bridge contractor and made the necessary repairs the next day. The bridge is considered stable and safe for travel. However, we're getting all the plans, designs and permits necessary to replace and/or repair the structure for the longer term.
4. The Hanover end of River Road: Also considered an emergency, sixty feet of river bank was stabilized at a cost of \$20,000. Materials were \$5400, excavator and operator costs were \$6000, engineering costs (including permitting) were \$5900 & town highway time was \$2500.
5. There is another 60 +/- feet of bank that needs to be stabilized adjacent to the above area. We are currently working on getting the design and DES permit. This process is expected to take 3-4 months.
6. A "Tax Study and Advisory Committee" has been formed to look at the impact of taxes on retirees and others, and to seek more revenues to lessen the impact of future tax increases in Lyme.
7. We continue to support and lobby for operational changes and/or mitigation funds from the damage we feel the operation of Wilder Dam is causing to Lyme's river banks.
8. Lyme Highway has been diligently working at stabilizing all the dirt roads during this mud season. You'll notice some areas have had significant tree/limb trimming in an effort to open the areas to sun and help shorten the mud season in those areas.
9. An effort toward tracking activity on roads and equipment maintenance is now being done. This will provide necessary information if FEMA funding is requested and for the purpose of analyzing how well equipment is cared for and how it's holding up over the years we expect it to work safely & efficiently.

Wishing you all a Happy Spring! As always, please call one of if you have questions or concerns.

Sue, Jay & Patty