

CLASS V ROADS STUDY COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, July 3rd, 2018
4 PM
TOWN OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM

Present: Sue MacKenzie, Dan Brand, Karen Henry, Bret Ryan, Ernst Kling, Frank Bowles

Agenda

- Minutes from 6-19-2018
- River Road Bridge over Hewes Brook
- Review Baker 1 plans
- Gravel Road Project
- Identification of a “go to” engineer

Minutes – The minutes from the 6-19-2018 were approved as revised (2nd Draft became the final copy).

River Road Bridge over Hewes Brook – Sue reported that nothing is happening on this project because the owner of adjacent land, Mr. Emery, has not granted approval for use of his property for placement of a required temporary bridge during construction. She said that it might be time to call the Valley News because we now have two landowners holding up two construction projects on River Road. The combination of the two delays potentially puts 25 families at risk of complete isolation. Mr. Emery has not communicated with anyone in Town.

Frank asked about sending a cordial, personal letter describing that we are in a dangerous situation. Ernst explained that he has already done this. Ernst asked about why not put the temporary bridge on the other side of the road (different landowner than Emery), and Sue and Frank answered that there is a septic system in the way. Sue explained that DES (NH Department of Environmental Services) will not allow the use of the temporary bridge over a septic system, even if the Town were to replace the septic system.

Bret asked if anyone had been in the back streets of Wilder and seen the temporary bridge that was used to span the railroad for about 10 years. Ernst said that these bridges were easy to place – just a loader and a few hours. Sue explained that Enfield has reserved a folding steel bridge for use by Lyme (Lyme will rent) should we need one on short notice. The Town will rent the bridge for \$20,000. The purchase cost of the bridge is \$35,000. Ernst suggested that Lyme consider purchasing a bridge (noting the price difference). Ramps will have to be built for any temporary bridge used at this location.

Sue again mentioned that she thinks another news article is “due.” Discussion ensued in which it was pointed out that Emery has not been communicative – he has not said “no,” but he has not granted permission to use his land. Sue said that she will ask Town counsel whether if there was an undeniable emergency, could we use his land.

There was some discussion about the bridge on Pony Hill Lane. Bret said that he thinks that there are some easy things to do to help the current culvert last a long time.

Frank asked about the contract with Hansen Bridges. Sue said that she would like to get the contract signed with Hansen, so that he knows that he “has” the project. The dates would have to be changed to accommodate the current delays due to the lack of permission from Mr. Emery and possibly the reconstruction of the closed portion of River Road prior to the bridge replacement.

Frank pointed out that he sent out comments on the Hansen Bridge proposal, and Karen, Dan, Bret and Ernst said that they got Frank’s comments but not a copy of the proposal. Sue said that she sent the proposal to everyone (on the Committee). Frank explained that he interpreted the proposal as having a lot of contingency funding because the contractor was/is not completely sure what he will find when construction begins. It’s a one-page proposal with attached qualifications. Bret commented that the prices seem very high for what he proposes to do – such as \$31,000 to remove the current bridge. Bret and Ernst both said that they knew of others who were interested in bidding on a concrete bridge at that location. They also felt that the proposed costs of mobilization and demobilization were very high.

Baker 1 plans – Nothing to review. Sue announced that the plan will have to address replacing the culvert without utilizing the property owned by David Roby. The repair would have to remain within the current right-of-way. Currently the tentative plan is a concrete box culvert with steep headwalls. There was general discussion of various types of retaining wall designs. Sue said that MichiCorps is working on the design. Bret had a few ideas about using block, etc., for wall types that would work well.

Trees on the bridge on HighBridge Road – Sue said that Steve Williams told her that if we cut the trees growing on the top of the bridge on Highbridge Road, it would “make the situation worse.” Bret asked why Sue thought it was important to have the trees cut, and she said that it seems that they could cause damage to the bridge if they fall over. Frank pointed out that if the tree falls over, and the root ball uproots, that would remove considerable amount of soil. Sue again asked the Committee if anyone could think of a reason not to cut the trees, and after some discussion, the Committee agreed that cutting them seems more reasonable than not cutting them but the roots and stumps should remain. There was more discussion about how to best remove the trees without causing damage to the road and bridge – Bret and Ernst suggested that the use of a FellerBuncher for the tree cutting.

Gravel Road Project – Sue said that she is getting pushback on this project as well, with the feedback being that it is a waste of time and money. Frank said that it is not at the top of the list of the current road priorities in town. Bret commented that finances are an issue. Karen said that she didn’t think it was a waste of money.

Potential “go to” engineer - Sue asked Karen to talk about our new ‘go to’ engineer. Karen said that the proposed contract seems reasonable. His name is Anthony Puntin. Ernst got a potential name, as well – Mike Willis (semi-retired). (Sue said that Mike Willis’ partner is doing the inspection on the current River Road repair project.) Karen further explained that Anthony is not a geotechnical engineer. He has a lot experience doing projects for municipalities, has an infrastructure background. He could be the “face” of the Town to DES. He is very well-connected in New Hampshire with regard to regulators as well as designers and construction contractors. Karen thinks that he is a common-sense engineering advice person. His contract includes writing a scope of work and time limits for every project that he would do. If we do not need his advice, he won’t charge us. His rate is \$100 per hour, which Karen thinks is very reasonable. He

will not do design. Sue said, for example, that we could send him an RFP and ask for his opinion. Frank said that it sounds like we could get an intelligent opinion based on considerable professional experience. Bret suggested that we get the engineering advice from the person who will “do the job.” There was considerable discussion about how this would “work.” This included various descriptions of the services offered by the two firms - Pathways Engineering and CLD Fuss & O’Neil. Frank was supportive of this idea, stating that he might be helpful in terms of the overall approach to upcoming/potential projects.

Sue’s final assessment was that we will call him (Anthony Puntin) if we need such advice.

Culvert Inventory – Dan reported that NH DES runs an ARC GIS database to determine volumetric flow rates depending on specific precipitation events. This is used to determine needed hydraulic capacities for culverts. The data collected by the UVLSRPC (Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission) is input into this same database. The State may take up to 3 years to do this, but there is no charge for this service. It is run with SADES (State Wide Asset Data Exchange System). The culvert inventory includes recording the appropriate input information for use by NH DES in this software program (detailed site-specific data, including survey measurements up and down stream of culverts, corrosion of the culverts, etc...).

Frank asked whether the Town will have access to the data collected. Dan said that he would certainly assume so.

Other business – There was no other business.

The meeting was adjourned at 5PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 17 July, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Karen Henry