

TOWN OF LYME
Select Board Meeting
April 20th, 2016
2:00PM
Town Office conference Room
Approved: April 21, 2016

Present for all or part of this meeting: Susan J. MacKenzie- BOS Chair, C. Jay Smith-BOS member, Patricia Jenks-BOS member, Guests:
Charles Hirschberg and Brian Vincent-CLD Engineering and
Frank Bowles and Kevin Sahr-Consultants for Lyme Road assessments

This meeting was called to order at 2:15pm for the purpose of meeting with CLD Engineering representatives to hear their opinions about River Road issues-current, pending and probable. Consultants Bowles and Sahr are Lyme residents who have volunteered their time and engineering expertise to help facilitate the charting of locations and significance of issues on River Road by walking the road and visually noting any concerns. Ultimately the goal of this meeting is to summarize and prioritize the points of concern. This effort comes as the result of on-going critical surprises on River Road and the recommendation from NH Department of Environmental Services to compile a full road assessment and prepare for permitting accordingly.

1. Brian Vincent began discussions explaining about “cup failures”; MacKenzie provided pictures of these along certain areas of River Road.
2. Charles Hirshberg indicated the first step in compiling an assessment is to identify locations of concern. With that, using an aerial map provided by CLD, 9 locations were identified and marked beginning at the southernmost part of the Lyme portion of River Road to the north ending just beyond the Berway Farm.
3. Using an agenda and “Master Planning” checklist provided by CLD the following locations were identified, discussed and prioritized. Bowles and Sahr suggested a numbering system to apply degree of concern to each location. “0” being of no immediate concern because the road is closed at that point, #1 being urgent increasing to # 5 being a priority which can wait. From the south end:

*1. Hidden Valley-low areas along River Road. Recently an emergency repair was done by the Town of Lyme and private contractor, a 60 ft. span was filled, ripped and blanketed per engineered plans and DES approval. There remains a 130 ft. span to be done.

This is a current concern and is prioritized as #1

*2. “Sue’s Corner”- a location between the MacKenzie residence(101 River Rd) and Hewes Brook Bridge, there appears to be a noticeable settling in the river-side lane of the roadway. This has not been previously identified.

This issue can wait.

Prioritized as #3-5.

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*3. Hewes Brook Bridge replacement- Some recent emergency remedial work has been done in this area due to recent wing wall failure. Originally believed to have a 5 year “life”, with the repairs that may still be true. Permitting has been applied for and plans are 90% complete for construction.

This may be considered as “on hold.”

Prioritized as #1.

*4. Fisher Bridge-An area beyond the Fisher Bridge which has recently been repaired has been identified as of concern. Hirshberg suggested getting permitting in place now. Permits are good for 5 years and may be extended if necessary. Borings may provide useful information toward remedial action.

It is considered Urgent; preliminary plans should be developed now.

Priority is #1-3

*5. River Road Settlement Area (Slump #1)- Currently closed to through traffic and in design phase for a rerouted roadway around the compromised location and onto East Thetford Road. Hirschberg has recently re-walked the area, trying to find alternative solutions, finding none. There is landowner contention, delaying progress on resolution. Vincent suggested getting the final documents compiled which will support any legal issues that may arise.

Because of closure, this area may be concerned “on hold.”

Priority is 0 because of closure.

*6. Dirt portion on north section of River Road bank near an area where significant logging has recently taken place; this area recently identified by Bowles & Sahr-about ½ mile of concern.

No analysis has been done as yet; condition is unknown.

Priority is #1.

*7. River Embankment Stabilization near the Carola Lea property. Wetlands & Shore land permitting required-could take 1-2 years. No engineering done at this time.

No analysis done as yet; condition is unknown.

Priority considered #2-3.

*8. Berway Farm-Road Failure Concerns (Slump #2)- Following heavy rains there was a recent significant failure. Corrective action was dealt with as an emergency by Lyme Highway with after- the- fact permitting. There is more work to be done here to redirect water flow and enforce road stability.

This is considered on-going.

Priority is #1.

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*9. Field Embankment Slope Stabilization north of Berway Farm-There are plans for corrective action in 2016. Test pits and permitting required; engineering not determined. Repairs should be able to be done by Lyme Highway.
No analysis, therefore condition unknown at this time.
Priority is considered #3-5.

As a result of these identifications and the discussions outlining necessary action, MacKenzie made the motion that CLD Engineering proceed with a feasibility report for the Fisher Bridge area (#4 noted above). Further, the Board authorized CLD Engineering to look at the Fisher Bridge area of concern and provide a proposal for remedial measures. Smith seconded and it was voted unanimously to proceed with this action.

Hirschberg brought up the issue of funding sources for this very costly endeavor of addressing the serious issues surrounding the entire span of River Road in Lyme. He as well as the Board have reached out to FEMA and the Army Corps of Engineers, with little sense of available funds. Low interest financing (bond) may need to be considered; the need for complete and thorough assessment critical in order to take this request to Town Meeting,

MacKenzie stated she felt observation and documentation of condition changes from the River was extremely necessary and helpful in compiling accurate data. Those present agreed.

Hirschberg and Vincent were thanked sincerely for extending such a significant amount of time and effort on our behalf. The information and suggestions are extremely valuable and appreciated.

In addition, Bowles and Sahr were also thanked for volunteering their time in what will likely be a long and arduous investigative effort to determine where there are issues of concern on Lyme roads.

This meeting was adjourned at 3:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patty Jenks