Road Committee Meeting DRAFT
Wednesday, June 19, 2019, at 4 PM Hancock Town Office, Caverly Room

Present: Neal Cass, Chuck Willard, Mollie Miller, Eleanor Briggs, Alison Rossiter

Meeting was called to order by Mollie Miller at 4:08 PM

Minutes of the 6/5/19 meeting were reviewed. Motion was made by Alison and seconded by Chuck. A discussion re: ‘mowing’-related content, including addition of other equipment and revised schedule for mowing. After discussion, members voted on the motion, which passed unanimously.

Development of the Guidelines for Routine Maintenance of Very Low-Volume Roads in Hancock, NH, continued. An updated draft was provided by Mollie. Discussion of new additions to the guidelines included the following topics:

1. Reviewed the goal/focus of guidelines and those for whom the materials have been developed, such as, DPW director and staff, town residents, other town committees, etc., and focus on ‘balancing the safety and upkeep of Hancock gravel roads with their scenic beauty and rural quality’, referencing and reinforcing the original mission statement.
2. Discussion focused on a definition of ‘country roads’ and whether the current draft explains the concept. Mollie will review responses to the original survey that reflect the respondents’ interpretation.
3. Committee then began to discuss the historical roads in Hancock and how the use of roads changes with time, i.e., Kings Highway was considered more similar than different since it was originally laid down and an inn existed on Old Dublin Road (gravel section) that wouldn’t be economically successful today.
4. Discussion of whether the guidelines current reflect a philosophy re: maintenance of gravel roads, a history of them, a calendar for maintenance, and an effective communication system for those in town.
5. Committee agreed that it is important that a high level of trust is essential for residents to support the activities of the DPW and its scheduled work/projects. The guidelines, a good and responsive communication system and a sense of transparency re: the work to be done and the residents’ level of comfort and confidence that there would be ‘no surprises’.
6. Discussion of a booklet/pamphlet that could be given to newcomers to the town, which would include how to access the guidelines, the DPW, and others road maintenance-related materials, as well as other information. Neal commented that the town, at one time, had materials that newcomers appreciated.
7. It was suggested that the committee approach the Select Board re: the guidelines for paved roads that are being worked on with input by the Southwest Regional Planning Committee. It would be helpful to view their current drafts to ensure that both guidelines are ‘in sync’.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:30 PM

Next meeting: Wednesday, July 3, 2019, at 4PM in the Barbara Caverly Meeting Room.

Minutes submitted by Alison Rossiter