

TOWN OF RIPTON SELECTBOARD MINUTES

Date:	Meeting No.	Start:	End:	Next Meeting	Next Time
6-30-08	2008-12	7:30 p.m.	10:00 p.m.	7-07-08	7:30 p.m.
Attendees:	William Ford, Laureen Cox, and Ronald Wimett, Selectboard; Debra Karpak, Clerk to the Selectboard, Peter Karpak, Associate Clerk to the Selectboard				
Visitors:	Dean Rheaume and Todd Seguin, residents, Billings Farm Road Willem Jewett, resident, State Representative Tim Bouton, Addison County Regional Planning Commission Invited but not available: Warren King, Planning Commission; Marty Whittemore, Rip-ton Emergency Management Representative; Sally Hoyler, Rip-ton Town Clerk				

Item Number	Subject	Start Date	End Date	Action
Storm -06-14-08				
08-12-SPEMET	Special Meeting	06-30-08	06-30-08	

Began the meeting by creating a topic agenda from those present.

Road conditions, standards, progress

Communication, organization

FEMA

- General discussion
- Share what each may know: status and process
- Road-by-road damage estimates

Forest Service

- potential for the development of a gravel pit
- Forestry Stewardship Program

Interagency Meeting

Other Funding Streams

- Including State Highway Emergency Fund Request

Private residents

Chair William Ford shared an e-mail from Joe Colangelo, Town Manager of Middlebury that Mr. Colangelo has heard "from Vermont Emergency Management that Addison County has qualified for Federal Aid...the Governor has sent (or will be sending) a decal

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ration to the President and we should find out within a week or so what sort of aid we will be awarded....”

L. Cox brought up the Interagency Meeting. It has been scheduled for Wednesday, July 2, 7:30 a.m. at Rosie’s. The meeting is to aid in the communication process and to discuss next steps in the effort to address the Storm Damage situation in an efficient and timely manner for Town infrastructure including roads as well as private property,

At the time of this Special Meeting, a comprehensive list was not available. Those expected to attend: William Ford and Deb Karpak from Ripton, Representative Willem Jewett, Senator Claire Ayer, Tim Bouton, Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC), a representative from Vermont Emergency Management (VEM), a representative from Vermont Department of Transportation (VTrans), and others.

It is also hoped that there will be an update on the FEMA declaration status.

W. Ford also suggested that this is a time to ask questions and to get answers.

Deb Karpak has been designated the “point person” for Ripton. She will receive all correspondence and route information to the Board and interested parties as well as take information from the Board back to specific agencies/people. She is to let all those involved know.

W. Jewett and T. Bouton both have noted that their follow up to the agencies to date has found the agencies being non-committal in their response. Willem noted that Rutland seems to be able to walk through the FEMA preliminary report where Ripton seems to have limited information available to it.

W. Ford brought the discussion to the roads and shared that it is the plan to rebuild the Dugway to the 2000 plan including hydrology, culvert sizes, etc. as specified in the design. More discussion on the Dugway, status of work, etc.

There is some decision making in the road repair process until we know whether or not we have been approved for FEMA grant. All agreed that the ideal is to go to road standards and T. Bouton agreed that is the direction to go especially if there is state and federal aid for the Town.

W. Jewett addressed the Town Highway Emergency Fund and the Senator Ayer had talked with B. Farr at VEM. Ripton has not yet requested. D. Karpak will pursue information on this.

W. Ford and W. Jewett shared that when FEMA was here that they did not continue up Selden Mill Road. If they had they would have discovered more reason to add to the FEMA preliminary declaration information for damage assessment. Question was raised as to FEMA covering only the estimate or actual costs should they be different. W. Ford

gave the example from the FEMA representative Ken Pinkham’s visit: if a culvert was washed out and moved, FEMA would pay for a new culvert and dirt; if the culvert stayed

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in place and the dirt around it eroded, then they would only pay for the dirt. T. Bouton offered that his experience has shown that if there is a FEMA declaration, then it is all about getting the Town whole again. W. Ford offered that M. Price of VTrans was a good advocate on Ripton's behalf during the visit. It was also offered that perhaps the Town might have some materials that would help the private residents, i.e. culvert but size and availability are factors.

Offers of help have come from some other towns such as Bridport and R. Wimett added that when the time comes, he will access this help. In addition, VTrans offered assistance, in trucks, equipment, hauling, engineering, et al. Having rate sheets for possible services would help in establishing cost estimates and having an idea of necessary lead time for the service providers to access the offered services would be beneficial. D. Karpak is to get VTrans rate sheets, T. Bouton suggested FEMA rate sheets. Also D. Karpak to get rate sheets from Larry at CEA.

T. Bouton asked about the Category B part of FEMA related to private roads being eligible for funding in cases where it helps with access by emergency vehicles if needed. Still pursuing clarification on this.

L. Cox brought up the point of FEMA money and how it relates to cost of bringing roads to standard, the amount of time and the time frame expected.

W. Ford directed the discussion to the topic of a gravel pit and the cost effective factors in finding a local site since the Town does not presently have access to one. L. Cox added the need to identify the site and initiate its use based on emergency need. Several people will work on this: D. Karpak ask for Soil Maps, E. Ready of Sanders office interested to help based on feedback from L. Cox, also suggested finding if any resident of Ripton is Civil Engineer/Geologist. Possibly contact S. Revell in Lincoln. National Forest service may be at the meeting at Rosies. We can ask there.

W. Ford directed the discussion to SBA (Small Business Association) and the opportunity of loans to residents. Loans are available and officers are in Rutland on certain dates. We will see what we can do to get them to come to Ripton/Middlebury. Town can offer office space.

W. Ford directed the discussion to the Natural Resource Conservation Service. The hill on at least one section of the Dugway is eroding and there is also bank erosion. There was a discussion about the EWP (Emergency Watershed Protection Program) mentioned in an e-mail by Claire Ayer to W. Jewett. D. Karpak had done some research with local NRCS and there was a discrepancy on whether these funds were based on FEMA disaster designation or not. We will pursue this at the meeting on Wednesday and D. Karpak will follow up with Senator Ayer.

W. Ford informed T. Bouton that during the storm, there was a communication mixup with VTrans and VEM. (1) The VEM phone numbers that VTrans gave to the highway crew were wrong. (2) when they had the correct phone number, no one at VEM picked up the phone. VEM should be informed.

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T. Bouton brought up the Forest Stewardship Program which allows the Forest Service to work with Towns, possibly with funding. This could be framed that some of the repair on roads will keep the roads from "silting down." D. Karpak to follow up with Dan McKinley and Robert Stovall of the Forest Service for clarification.

T. Bouton also offered two other funding sources. Both are FEMA based, but not disaster dependent:

- Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program. Competitive Program. Due date for FY'09 is 12/1/08.
- FMA (Flood Mitigation Assistance. Certain amount of money is allocated to each state each year.

On the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan for Ripton, T. Bouton sent the plan to VEM. W. Ford had made some recommendations for change, T. Bouton added that they could still be made as there will be another chance to look at the it.

Regarding private residents a letter from Andrea Chesman and Richard Ruane requested the Selectboard consider recommendations for repairs to their yard as a result of road water runoff. Residents attending meeting: D. Rheume said that residents are not sure which direction to go in. They are organizing themselves. Sally Hoyler has been very helpful, but has been provided with very little information at this point to share. R. Wimett agreed that it is difficult to know whether to move or wait. Need more information. It was agreed that D. Karpak will keep residents and Sally Hoyler (Clerk Office) in the loop as she comes across information pertinent to them. L. Cox asked if there was anyone who could help pull some of the pieces together for and with the private landowners. Nothing came to mind, but T. Bouton suggested that sometimes national church groups take the lead in this. D. Rheume offered that the citizens are having a meeting on 7/9 at the Fire House and that they are working with an independent mediator.

William Ford

Laureen Cox

Ronald Wimett