

**TOWN OF RIPTON
SELECTBOARD MINUTES
Special Meeting
September 5, 2011**

Flood damage and response – tropical storm Irene, August 28, 2011

Date:	Meeting No.	Start:	End:	Next Meeting	Next Time
09-05-11	2011-20	7:30	9:30	09-12-11	7:30 p.m.
Attendees:	Laureen Cox, Ronald Wimett and Richard Collitt, Selectboard; Alison Joseph, Clerk to the Board; Erik Eriksen, Richard Hawley, Sally Hoyler, Carol McKnight				
Approval / Actions:	Approved to hire Roy Schiff of Milone and MacBroom, engineer for the 2010 mitigation project, to assess the flood chute and riprap following tropical storm Irene and make recommendations. Moved: Laureen Cox. Seconded: Richard Collitt.				
Discussion:	<p>Town roads: Ronald Wimett estimated damage to town roads at a cost of \$86,000 - \$100,000. A list of damages was submitted to VTrans and is attached to these minutes. Loss of rock that armored riverbanks was described at the Goshen Rd. and Norton Farm Rd. There were culvert problems at Dragon Brook Rd. and Peddlers Bridge Rd. Dragon Brook Rd. was closed this evening because of washouts around and below a culvert.</p> <p>Private roads: Several private roads were without access as a result of the storm. There was much discussion about the need for agreements with private road property owners, when or whether or not to do emergency repair work, payment, liability, and pre-approval of work. FEMA class B funds for repair adequate for emergency vehicle access were approved, per email from Addison County Regional Planning. The experience of 2008 as applied to restoring access and to securing payment from property owners was discussed. Emergency access was restored to Deacon Hill Rd. VTrans left 5 loads of stone to help with restoration of access to Old Town Rd. The bridge at the Neshobe driveway on 125 remains out. Other bridges on private roads with homes held up. To address the private road situation in the long-term, the Board will send a letter to those on all private roads defining emergency repairs and property owner responsibility for payment.</p> <p>Flood chute and riprap: Richard Hawley and Carol McKnight spoke about the flood chute, loss of riprap, and damage to their property. The river breached its banks at their property before accessing the flood chute. They believe the flood chute should be lowered to prevent damage to riprap, Rt. 125, and their properties. Mr. Hawley is willing to pay towards this work and Ms. McKnight cited the opportunity presented by relaxed permit requirements. Explanations for the designed height, purpose, and expectation of the flood chute were given. The Board agreed to ask Roy Schiff, project engineer, of Milone and MacBroom to inspect the chute and riprap and provide recommendations.</p> <p>Other discussion: Rainfall totals of 4"-8" were reported by residents. Keeping a public right-of-way, be it USFS, state, or town, through Old Town Rd. from Middlebury to Ripton was discussed.</p>				

Laureen Cox

Ronald Wimett

Richard Collitt