

Ripton Selectboard Meeting Minutes				
Date	Meeting #	Call to Order	Adjourn	Next Meeting
09-22-2014	2014-20	7:30 p.m.	10:10 p.m.	10-13-14, 7:30 p.m., town office
Attendees	Selectboard: Laureen Cox, chair; Ronald Wimett, Richard Collitt. Clerk/administrator: Alison Joseph. Chris Mattrick, US Forest Service, to discuss mutual concerns; Paul Gillies and Kevin Russell to present and discuss the Old Centre Turnpike Preservation Study; Tim Bouton, Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC); Gail Lewis, Tim Billings, Eleanor Coeby, Lynn Coeby, Liz Walker, Charles Billings, Robert Murphy, Old Town Rd. residents and/or property owners; Bryan Alexander, Jonathan Blake, Aaron and Bjorn Coburn, Warren King.			
Motions/votes	Unless noted, motions/2nds are by R. Collitt (RC), R. Wimett (RW), approval by all (RC/RW/LC). Moved/seconded/approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes of 09-08-14. • USFS acquisition of portion of land from parcel #02-01-0024, along the Lincoln Rd. and Pearl Lee Rd. • Workshop and mileage for staff/officers: audit workshop. • Orders: Roads: \$7,862.75; General Fund: \$10,138.24. 			
Discussion				
1. Agenda	The order of the agenda was changed to accommodate visitors.			
2. US Forest Service	USFS District Ranger Chris Mattrick spoke of Forest Service concerns in Ripton and answered questions. Discussion included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural Turnpike Project timber sales are complete; • the Steam Mill gravel pit project is on hold; • Sparks Pit issues including dumping, a gate to remain unlocked, and noise from shooter use of tannerite exploding targets; • the unknown future for the USFS Ripton barracks buildings off of the Goshen Rd. (next to Silver Towers Camp); • radio repeaters and communication; • planning for upgrades at the Robert Frost wayside and interpretive trails; Green Mountain Power utility relocation; winter plowing for parking at the Frost trails; • car break-ins at trailheads; • Steam Mill Road culverts and communication about detours; • the Sept. 28th celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act; forest road planning; • that the comment period for a comprehensive trail strategy proposal is open; • a forthcoming USFS document about hazard trees; • Ripton Historical Society interest in the former CCC camp off Natural Turnpike, archaeological resources, appreciation of retired archaeologist David Lacey, and trails and signs at the CCC site; • potential sale of 150 acres from Poritz to USFS. <p>Though town approval is not required, Mr. Mattrick asked the selectboard if they approve USFS acquisition of 150 +/- acres, from parcel id 02-01-24 on the Lincoln and Pearl Lee Rds. Ranger Mattrick provided a tax analysis that showed the loss of tax revenue offset by federal payment in lieu of taxes and a rural schools grant. Comments were made about the minimal impact to the town and the importance of this acquisition for the USFS. Discussion with Ranger Mattrick closed at 8:10 p.m. The board moved and approved its support of the proposed land transfer (see</p>			

	motions/votes).
3. Old Centre Turnpike Preservation Study Presentation	<p>Consultants Paul Gillies and Kevin Russell presented their findings of this Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC) Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) grant study concerning the Old Centre Turnpike right-of-way.</p> <p>Mr. Russell explained the study was to clarify the legal status of the right-of-way and its potential use as a corridor for emergency access. Mr. Gillies described his research and legal opinion that the Old Centre Turnpike right-of-way is a public right-of way owned by the Town. It is a route laid out in 1793, purchased by the Town in 1853, and never legally discontinued. A map prepared by LandWorks illustrated the road and the current and historic Middlebury/Ripton boundary. The right-of-way is a class 4 road in Middlebury near the Oak Ridge Trail parking area on Rte 125 extending to what is now Old Town Rd. in Ripton. The consultants recommend that the Town add the road to the General Highway Map and Certificate of Highway Mileage by July 2015.</p> <p>Discussion followed about the process for addition to the highway map and certificate of mileage, processes for layout and discontinuance, the Ancient Roads law, identifiable versus unidentifiable corridors, road classification and maintenance, USFS use and maintenance, re-routing, the 1853 town acquisition of the Centre Turnpike, past FEMA payments and future eligibility issues.</p> <p>Mr. Gillies clarified that though the Town acquired the road when it was in the current Rte 125 location, it acquired the rights of the 1793 survey. No survey of the road from 1853 was found.</p> <p>Mr. Russell recommended that the town work with stakeholders on a plan to manage the right-of-way with respect of the privacy and security that current property owners have expected and enjoyed. Portions may be classified a town trail and use managed by an ordinance.</p> <p>The consultants supplied a draft resolution for the selectboard concerning the road, but the selectboard took no action. The board will not act on this issue before its Oct. 27th meeting.</p> <p>All visitors left the meeting at the close of this discussion, 9:20 p.m.</p>
4. Minutes	After amendment, the Sept.8 th meeting minutes were approved.
5. Old Business	
a. Roads	The winter sand pile site is prepared.
b. Road grants	
Structures:	The structures grant (#BC1569) for extension of culvert #1C36 near Baker Bridge (B2, TH1) is underway.
USFS & Better Backroads	One of two culvert replacements (#18C24 and #18C26) on the Goshen Rd. (TH18, USFS32) with ditching and seeding is complete.
ACRPC TAC grants	See above for the Old Centre Turnpike Study grant. The Peddler Bridge Road culvert study is due.
c. Budget	Road budget expenditures were noted for assignment to grants.
d. Buildings	Home Partners commitment to completing Community House painting was discussed.

e. Open Meeting law	No discussion.
f. Dogs	Four dog owners licensed their dogs after the most recent reminder to do so. The list of owners of dogs previously but not currently licensed is: DiPaolo, Jackson, Rudinsky.
6. New Business	
a. Correspondence	VLCT municipal workshops; USDA/USFS notice of completion of grant/agreement number 09RO1109200034.

Laureen Cox

Ronald Wimett

Richard Collitt