

Town of Ripton Selectboard Special Meeting Minutes

Date	Meeting No.	Call to order	Call to adjourn	Next Regular Meeting
02-13-2015	2015-5	9:45 a.m.	10:50 a.m.	02-26-15, 7:30, town office
Members present	Chair Laureen Cox, Richard Collitt, Ronald Wimett			
Visitors/participants	Dick Hosking, VTrans District 5 project manager; Alison Joseph, selectboard administrator			
Motions/votes	Motions moved by Richard Collitt, seconded by Ronald Wimett. Approved by all: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endorsed amendment of the Act 250 Land Use Permit for Route 125 to allow replacement of existing weathering steel guardrail with galvanized steel guardrail. 			
Agenda & Discussion				
1. Agenda	SPECIAL MEETING: with Dick Hosking of VTrans to discuss Route 125 guardrail and road issues.			
2. Visitors	None			
3. Discussion	<p>A 1996 Act 250 Land Use Permit Amendment specifies oxidized steel box beam guardrail (aka weathering steel) for sections of Route 125 in Ripton and Middlebury. However due to rusting, safety concerns and its short longevity, weathering steel guardrail is no longer allowed by the Federal Highway Administration (FHA). The Agency of Transportation (VTrans) is removing and replacing weathering steel with galvanized steel guardrail on all roads, except Route 125 due to the Act 250 permit. VTrans would like to request an amendment of the Act 250 permit for Route 125 to allow galvanized steel guardrail. Mr. Hosking presented findings about weathering steel guardrail failure and asked if the selectboard would endorse a permit amendment to allow galvanized guardrail.</p> <p>Discussion included: resident concerns, failure of both weathering steel box beam and w beam guardrail, a report from the State of NH of documenting weathering steel guardrail failure and concerns, alternatives, aesthetics and installation of used galvanized steel with reduced shine to blend with the environment, impracticality of galvanized box beam due to curves on Route 125, height of rail, and possible timeline for replacement if an amendment is approved.</p> <p>The board moved and approved to support an Act 250 Land Use Permit amendment to allow the removal of the weathering steel guardrail and installation of galvanized steel guardrail (see motions/votes above). A letter of endorsement will be submitted.</p> <p>The Bridge of Flowers and scheduled road work east of the bridge were discussed. The selectboard asked that the guardrail inside the bridge be removed. The board agreed that the stretch of road east of the bridge where work is currently scheduled be allowed to have galvanized guardrail.</p> <p>Other topics included: road grants, road classification, and bridge inspections.</p>			

Laureen Cox

Ronald Wimett

Richard Collitt