

**TOWN OF RIPTON
SELECTMENS MINUTES**

Date:	Meeting No.	Start:	End:	Next Meeting	Next Time
05-12-03	2003-09	7:35	9:45	05-26-03	7:30pm

Attendees:	William Ford, Ronald Wimett and Lauren Cox, Selectmen; & Timothy Hanson, Town Clerk.
Visitors:	Warren King from the Planning Commission. (See Poritz Subdivision) Gary Fern From Otter Creek Engineering; Anza Armstrong and Jeremie Grip. (See Parking Area Grant)
Minutes:	Minutes for 04-28-03 were reviewed and signed.
Approval Actions:	Mr. Wimett said that he had dropped off the revised driveway access permit for Timothy O’Leary at the office several weeks ago. The application could not be found—the Clerk will continue to search for it. Mr. O’Leary has buried his power and telephone lines under the North Branch Road, and Mr. Wimett has documented their location with photographs. Approved driveway permit application for Tracey Willis, with modifications as shown on the filed plans. Approved use of the Community House by Lauren Cox and Pamela Tillman (liquor will be served). Voted to purchase a footbridge (see Parking Lot Grant)
Orders:	Orders for 05/12/03 were reviewed and signed. Total for Roads: \$2,044.57, and for General Fund \$3,669.40.

Item Number	Subject	Start Date	End	Action
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Zoning—Old Business

03-06-Zone-a	Poritz Subdivision	03-24-03	Pending	
	<p>There has been nothing from Mr. Poritz about his request for a subdivision permit for land on the Lincoln and the Pearl Lee Roads since he was sent a letter from the Planning Commission requiring significant upgrade to the road.</p> <p>Mr. King and Mr. Ford have walked what appears to be the old road from the end of the Pearl Lee Road to Lincoln. Some significant work will need to be done on it to clear it and deal with the erosion problems. The Board will discuss mapping and surveying later. Regional Planning will produce a map of this road from a GPS reading taken by Mr. King during the walk.</p>			
03-02-Zone-b	David and Melissa Manning Property	01-28-03	Pending	
	<p>Mr. Wimett said that he has driven by the trailer himself and that “you can see light through it”—the demolition is continuing.</p>			

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National Forest Purchase of Land in Town—Old Business

03-08-NtFor-a	Purchase of Land in Town	04-28-03	Ongoing	
Nothing new on this item for this meeting.				

Parking Lot Grant—Old Business

00-18-Park-a	Parking Lot Grant; Route 125 Enhancement Grant	09-11-00	Ongoing	AJ
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The Board discussed with Gary Fern, Anza Armstrong and Jeremie Grip (abutting landowners) and Warren King a proposal to purchase a pedestrian bridge to be placed upstream from the easterly bridge over Route 125 (so-called “Bridge of Flowers”). Belden Company has a used 52’ bridge selling for \$10,400.00, which is by all accounts a good deal. This does not include trucking or placement. The length of the bridge has one major advantage—it can be installed on concrete pads well away from the river’s edge, obviating the need for river-work permits.

Gary Fern presented a drawing that represents one possibility for how the bridge could be installed. This plan shows the bridge located quite far upstream, in order to avoid moving guardrail. The path to get to the bridge would have to pass out of the State’s right-of-way and onto the lands of Jeremie Grip and Anza Armstrong/ Janice Carter. However, both were willing to go along with this proposed route if it was the only option. Anza Armstrong said that the bridge is very important to the safety of pedestrians, primarily school children who cross it to get to the school bus stop. The Board discussed whether or not the bridge could be moved closer to the State bridge. Mr. Fern said that the VTRANS person he spoke with told him that no guardrail could be moved, but the Board felt that if we spoke to the right people we might be able to get permission to relocate some of the rail so long as safety was not compromised.

Some specific questions that were asked:

- What is the life expectancy of the bridge? Mr. Fern said 30-50 years.
- Can the bridge be shortened? Mr. Fern said possibly, though he would have to get a structural engineer to review any changes to the bridge.
- Could the bridge be installed before the path to the bridge was completed? Mr. Fern said this was possible.

The Board said that it would make sense to have Belden sell the Town a package—purchase of the bridge, trucking, concrete work, and placement of the structure. To have separate contracts to so each part of the project does not seem to be a good idea.

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The Board felt that the bridge was an important safety issue, and that it should be installed as a priority. The Clerk noted that Alison Joseph, Project Manger, calculated (in a memo) that there are funds left over from design costs that could be used for the purchase of the bridge. In any case the Town has to provide a match for the project and the cost of the bridge could count against the match.

Regarding questions about the parking lot portion of the grant asked at the last meeting:

- The path from the parking area to the ramp will be of compacted stone dust and should not be affected by the Community House's roof run off.
- There will be a section view of the planting area and curb in the final plans.
- The final plan shows that the culvert under Route 125 is to be lengthened.

Roads—Old Business

03-08-Roads-a	Summer Work	04-28-03	Ongoing	
<p>Road signs at Burnt Hill and Steam Mill Road have been stolen. The Clerk will order new ones.</p> <p>Mr. Wimett is in the middle of hauling gravel. Once that is done he will start work on the culverts. There are several culverts that have holes in them that need to be replaced.</p> <p>The stop sign on the Baker Bridge needs to be repaired—it has been knocked down.</p> <p>Still need to schedule the annual VTRANS meeting.</p> <p>The roads have been swept. Mr. Ford noted that there are sand berms under the approach guardrails on several of the bridges. These need to be dealt with so that water can flow off the road.</p> <p>Mr. Wimett is continuing to grade the roads, though this is a little difficult since they are still wet in places. He has done the Dugway, North Branch and Lincoln Road.</p>				

02-06-Roads-a	Truck Traffic on Route 125	03-25-02	Ongoing	TH
Nothing new on this for this meeting.				

Community House Maintenance—Old Business

03-02-Chse-a	Community House Maintenance	01-28-03	TH, AJ	
<p>The Board agreed to install a jet toilet in the east bathroom. This will generate more flushing pressure. Mr. Ford requested that McIntyre flush the waste line with a hose to confirm that it was draining properly—there is no point in installing a new toilet if the pipe is still plugged.</p>				

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Community House Roof—Old Business

02-15-Chse-a	Community House Roof	08-12-02		TH
The roof is done except for the snow rail. The rail will be delivered in the next few days, and Wilson Contracting will return to install it. Certificate of insurance is filed.				

Road Sign on the North Branch (Warner/Sauerwald)—New Business

03-06-Sign-a	Warner Sign	03-24-03	On-going	TH
The Clerk has yet to notify the Warners that the new sign will replace the one that is there now.				

William Ford

Lauren Cox

Ronald Wimett