

TOWN OF RIPTON SELECTMENS MINUTES

Date:	Meeting No.	Start:	End:	Next Meeting	Next Time
08-11-03	2003-15	7:40	10:15	08-25-03	7:30pm

Attendees:	William Ford, Laureen Cox and Ronald Wimett, Selectmen, and Timothy Han-son, Clerk.
Visitors:	Timothy Johnston and Rosalyn Chirnoff to discuss damage to their telephone line which is buried in the Lincoln Road.
Minutes:	Minutes for 07-28-03 were reviewed, corrected and signed.
Approval Actions:	Appointed Alison Joseph to the Planning Commission. Authorized the Clerk to bid for the Town at the delinquent tax sale of McCarthy's property. Mr. Wimett abstained from the vote, as he might put in a bid himself. Board requested that the Zoning Administrator include a post-installation inspection in his report to the Selectmen once each road-cut project is completed; approved an administrative fee of \$25.00 per permit.
Orders:	Orders for 08/11/03 were reviewed and signed. Total for Roads: \$8,255.00, and for General Fund \$35,544.87.00.

Item Number	Subject	Start Date	End	Action
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Insurance Certificates—Old Business

03-11-Ins-a	Worker's Compensation Insurance	06-09-03		TH
<p>The Clerk reported that after the final audit the Town's insurer has reduced the premium to almost exactly what VLCT estimated they would charge the Town. The Clerk held off canceling the Town's current policy because the price difference is so small and there is a mid-year cost of about \$150.00 to cancel. He proposed that the Town go to the end of the present term (February 2004) and switch to VLCT then. The Board requested that the Clerk switch to VLCT now due to all the time the Town had to spend getting the matter resolved.</p>				

Zoning—Old Business

03-06-Zone-a	Poritz Subdivision	03-24-03	Pending	
<p>Nothing new from Mr. Poritz's on his sale of land or request for subdivision.</p> <p>The Clerk said that Mr. King from the Conservation Commission has a map based on a GPS tracing which shows the location of the trail from the Pearl Lee Road to Lincoln. The plan is to have this trail flagged by Mr. King so that Mr. Poritz and Mr. Campbell (to whom Poritz sold the lot abutting the Lincoln town line) can see where the Town believes the trail to be. If they do not object to the flagged location, the Town will pay to have the trail surveyed. After the survey, deeds could be drawn up that confirmed the location of the trail.</p>				

TOWN OF RIPTON SELECTMENS MINUTES

Mr. King is meeting with the Lincoln Planning Commission and Selectmen next week to make sure that they are okay with where the trail comes out in their town, since there is no point in having a trail that does not connect with a trail or a road in Lincoln.

The Clerk will continue to work with Mr. King to get the trail mapped and to notify the landowners.

The Board requested that the Clerk contact Langrock and Sperry with a precis of the situation and see if they have any legal advice about how to reestablish the trail.

03-02-Zone-b	David and Melissa Manning Property	01-28-03	Pending	
Mr. Wimett says he has been by Mr. Manning's trailer and it has been further demolished. The Board will let the matter lie so long as he is making progress.				

Parking Lot Grant—Old Business

00-18-Park-a	Parking Lot Grant; Route 125 Enhancement Grant	09-11-00	Ongoing	AJ
<p>Otter Creek Engineering needs to provide drawings that show property lines, ownership information and other features before easement work can be done by the State. The Board expressed concern over the pace of receiving this data from Otter Creek. Mr. Ford said that he would be willing to contact Otter Creek by telephone to ask them to expedite this work, and requested a call from the Clerk telling him if such a call was necessary.</p> <p>The Board is very eager to have the bridge installed this year, and is interested to know if there are any consequences if the timeline agreed to by Otter Creek is not followed.</p> <p>Project manager Alison Joseph has received a river-work permit for the project.</p>				

Roads—New Business

03-15-Roads-a	Phone Line in the Lincoln Road	08-11-03	Ongoing	RW,TH
<p>Timothy Johnston and Rosalyn Chirnoff attended the meeting to discuss damage to their telephone line, which was buried (with Town permission) in the Lincoln Road about ten years ago. When Mr. Wimett was replacing a culvert near the Lucky 7 watering trough he cut through the phone line, which had not been laid around the culverts as it was supposed to be, but laid over the top.</p> <p>The easement allowing the line to be buried says the Town has no responsibility for any damage to the line in the course of roadwork so long as the Town notifies the owner before work begins. Since the</p>				

TOWN OF RIPTON SELECTMENS MINUTES

Town did not warn the current owners about the work, the damage done to date is at least in part the responsibility of the Town. However, the Town notified the two current owners (Chirnoff and Johnston) at this meeting that the Town intends to do more work on the road. If the line is further damaged, particularly if the line is laid over the top of the culverts as opposed to going around them as specified in the agreement, that damage will not be the responsibility of the Town. Further, the Town is under no obligation to take extraordinary steps to preserve line (for example, extensive hand-digging). (See a copy of the recorded agreement, filed with these minutes).

Mr. Johnston spoke about how to repair the line. He would like to use a 'pedestal' connection to make the splice. He will research the best way to make the repair and contact the Clerk or the Road Commissioner when he has a plan.

The Board said that all the work around the telephone lines ought to be done at once—that is, all the culverts that need to be replaced need to be done at one time, followed by repairs to the phone line, rather than being done piecemeal.

08-11-Roads-a	Silver Towers Motorcycle Rally	08-11-03	8-11-03	
The Clerk reported that the BMW rally is set for Silver Towers the 3 rd week in September. Mr. Wimett was asked not to grade the Goshen Road within a few weeks before this date.				

08-11-Roads-b	College/Wagon Wheel Road	08-11-03	Ongoing	TH
The Board reviewed a letter and a sketch from Steven Weber outlining a plan to work on the end of the Wagon Wheel Road. Mr. Weber's letter is not clear about where the work is to be done, nor if he is actually asking for permission to work on a Town road. The Clerk will draft a letter to him requesting clarification.				

Roads—Old Business

03-14-Roads-a	Residents Complaints about Roads	07-28-03	8-11-03	
Mr. Wimett has graded the Steam Mill Road as requested by Chris Smith.				

03-14-Roads-b	Who will do the road-work in the future?	03-28-03	Ongoing	Board
No further discussion on this issue at this meeting—to be moved to the reminder list.				

03-10-Roads-a	State Grants	05-26-03	Ongoing	
Mr. Wimett continues the work on the Class 2 road project. More brush and tree cutting has been done near the Lucky 7 and much of the bank on the west side of the road has been cut back and stripped of trees. The Board is concerned that the slope of the bank is well				

TOWN OF RIPTON SELECTMENS MINUTES

outside the 1 to 2 slope that the standards require. Mr. Wimett said that if that slope were to be maintained, the cut would be well outside the Town's right-of-way. The Board requested that the Clerk contact the Town's engineer to see if he has any ideas about a how to deal with this slope. Perhaps laying matting on the cut area (with seed, lime and fertilizer) would stabilize the bank, as it has at the intersection of Route 125 and the Natural Turnpike.

Dupoise is still on the schedule for paving.

Nothing new on how to remove the large boulders in the Town's right-of-way.

03-08-Roads-a	Summer Work	04-28-03	Ongoing	
	<p>Mr. Wimett has installed the road signs for Burnt Hill Road and Steam Mill Road.</p> <p>Culvert work has started .</p> <p>Mr. Wimett still needs to fix the stop sign on the Baker Bridge.</p> <p>Mr. Wimett still needs to remove the sand berms under the approach guardrails.</p>			
02-06-Roads-a	Truck Traffic on Route 125	03-25-02	Ongoing	TH
	<p>The Board requested that the Clerk talk with the Sheriff again about enforcing the 'crossing the center line' rules on the Town's portion of Route 125.</p>			

Old Office—New Business

08-11-OldOf-a	Old Office Rental	08-11-03	Ongoing	Board
	<p>The Clerk reported that Carol McKnight is interested in renting the old Town office. She has not made a formal proposal to the Town—the Clerk will contact her and ask her for one. She would like to make a few changes (unspecified) which she needs to outline in her proposal.</p> <p>The Board discussed the possibility of selling the building to her (if she is interested) so long as there was Town approval. The fact that the building is dedicated to Orris Manning is a consideration that has come up at a previous Town Meeting when a sale was proposed. The Board suggested that a new dedication could be arranged with a new home for the plaque—perhaps at the new fire station.</p> <p>The Clerk will arrange to have a little more brush cut around the building—some shrubs and bushes are growing right up to the building.</p>			

**TOWN OF RIPTON
SELECTMENS MINUTES**

Community House—Old Business

03-12-Chse-a	Community House Rental	06-23-03	Ongoing	TH
The clerk is still working on the new draft of the Community House contract.				

2-15-Chse-a	Community House Roof	08-12-02	8-11-03	
Wilson Contracting has finished installing the snow rail.				

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

03-06-Sign-a	Warner Sign	03-24-03	8-11-03	
Mr. Wimett has installed the new sign for Mr. Warner's driveway.				

William Ford

Ronald Wimett

Lauren Cox