

## TOWN OF RIPTON SELECTMENS MINUTES

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Meeting No.</b>	<b>Start:</b>	<b>End:</b>	<b>Next Meeting</b>	<b>Next Time</b>
03-08-04	2004-05	7:35	9:15	03-22-04	7:30pm

<b>Attendees:</b>	William Ford, Ronald Wimett and Lauren Cox, Selectmen, and Tim Hanson, Town Clerk.
<b>Visitors:</b>	Alison Joseph (Enhancement Grant Project Manager) and Kevin Jackson. Also Peter Sterling from the Vermont Wilderness Association and Warren King.
<b>Minutes:</b>	Minutes for 02-09-04 were signed; Minutes for 02-23-04 were reviewed and signed.
<b>Approval Actions:</b>	Mr. Ford, newly reelected, took his oath of office.  On a motion of Laurie Cox, seconded by Ronald Wimett, voted William Ford Chair of the Board for the ensuing year.  Voted that the Addison Independent be the “paper of record” for the Town.  Appointed Timothy Hanson to be Clerk of Selectmen for the ensuing year.  The Board voted to continue to meet on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m.
<b>Orders:</b>	Orders for 03/08/04 were reviewed and signed. Total for Roads: \$3,065.32, and for General Fund: \$6,465.78.

Item Number	Subject	Start Date	End	Action
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### National Forest Wilderness Area

04-05-Natfor-a	<b>Wilderness Areas</b>	03-08-04	03-08-04	
<p>Mr. Peter Sterling from the Vermont Wildlife Association presented a plan to increase the amount of Wilderness and National Recreation acreage in the Green Mountain National Forest. There was a discussion regarding how this would affect the Town’s payment-in-lieu-of-taxes (not at all), if it would change the amount of timber for sale (some), and if it would decrease the VAST trail network access (yes, minimally and not in Ripton).</p> <p>The Vermont Wildlife Association is presenting this information to all towns affected by this plan. They are not looking for any decisions from the Board—just giving information. The fact sheet and brochure given to the Board by the Association are included with these minutes.</p>				

### Zoning—Old Business

03-24-Trails-a	<b>Pearl Lee Trail</b>	12-22-03		
<p>Nothing new on this issue. Warren King has spoken with his contacts in Lincoln about their own trails policy and mapping, but he has not heard back yet.</p>				

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Recreation Trails Grant awards for 2004 have not yet been made.

### Parking Lot Grant—Old Business

00-18-Park-a	<b>Parking Lot Grant; Route 125 Enhancement Grant</b>	09-11-00	Ongoing	AJ
<p>The Project Manager reported the good news that all parties are willing to donate the land needed for the bridge. This will speed up the process tremendously. The deeds to transfer the properties to the State are being reviewed by the lawyers involved.</p> <p>Approval of the boundary adjustment for the property transfers is the next step. No final permits may be issued at VTrans, and deeds will not have final signatures, until approval by the Planning Commission is in hand. The Planning Commission has its final hearing on the boundary adjustment March 30<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p>The final survey and drawings are done except for a few minor corrections and will be here before the hearing on the 30th. Mr. Ford asked that a more specific date be set. Ms Joseph said she would call Otter Creek Engineering the next day to set a date. Mr. Ford said that he would be willing to call OCE to apply pressure to get this aspect of the project done if that would help. Ms. Joseph said she would let him know if that was necessary.</p> <p>The Federal Highway administrator, Mark Richter, whose approval is needed before the project goes out to bid, has a list of items that he will deal with when all the documents are in final form. Ms. Joseph said that the State Project Manger Al Pratt has this matter in hand. Mr. Richter has been known to be slow to respond, but Mr. Pratt has reason to believe that he will be timely. Mr. Ford suggested that if there were a problem the Town contact our Congressional delegation and see if calls from Leahy or Sanders would help.</p> <p>Last November Mr. Richter said that he might be able to provide more money for the project if we find ourselves short after bids are reviewed. Mr. Ford said that he was not at all interested in getting more money—he just wanted this project done. Ms. Joseph said that this would not be a separate grant, just more money for the same grant, and that we may not be able to get the project done with what we have. Mr. Ford was still not interested.</p> <p>Mr. Ford expressed his concern about the time this project has taken. Ms. Joseph said that Mr. Pratt is willing to come to a Select-board meeting to help explain the project process. Mr. Ford declined that offer. The Board encouraged Ms. Joseph to make any calls, or have the Board make any calls, to make sure that the project moves forward this spring. Mr. Ford said that he is willing to take time off from work to do what is necessary to get the project moving, so long as he knew that the Town had done all it was supposed to do to be ready. Ms. Joseph said that she would call on the Board if necessary. After this discussion, Ms. Joseph left the meeting.</p>				

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### Roads—New Business

04-05-Roads-a	<b>Summer Work Plan</b>	03-08-04	Ongoing	RW
<p>The Board requested that Mr. Wimett prepare a summer work plan for 2004 to make sure that the work outlined in the Town Report gets done this year. Mr. Ford encouraged Mr. Wimett to hire out work that he cannot get to (for example, roadside mowing) so long as what is budgeted for is done.</p>				
04-05-Roads-b	<b>Gravel Roads Condition/Posting</b>	03-08-04	Ongoing	RW
<p>The Board discussed posting roads. Mr. Wimett said that the roads have some potholes but are holding up pretty well.</p> <p>Mr. Wimett said that he had not posted roads in the last few years since most people knew to stay off them when they were soft. The loggers on the three big logging jobs were done and not using the roads any more. The Board expressed some concern over this, and requested that the Clerk research through VLCT whether or not the Town loses some legal rights if the roads are damaged by an over-weight truck and the roads are not posted.</p>				
04-05-Roads-c	<b>Power Line Burying Proposal</b>	03-08-04	Ongoing	
<p>The Board reviewed a proposal from Tim Allen to bury a power line in the Town's right-of-way from a pole on the edge of the road to his house. The Board proposed that the pole be sited in his land so that this would not be an issue.</p> <p>The Board further requested that the Clerk contact Verizon to see if they placed several power poles in the Town's right-of-way last year even though the Town had not given them permission to do so. Mr. Wimett said that he believed that the poles had been placed, but that it was possible that they were out of the right-of-way. The Clerk will check.</p>				
03-10-Roads-a	<b>State Grants</b>	05-26-03	Ongoing	
<p>The Clerk reported that David Marshall, the Town's engineer, has design and cost data for the culvert at the Cook Brook on the Natural Turnpike, so a grant application can be submitted in time. The streambed alterations engineer will be looking at the project tomorrow, so that part will be taken care of soon.</p> <p>Mr. Wimett said he should be able to get the stone left by the blasting picked up this week.</p> <p>The Town is still waiting for payment. The Clerk has submitted the bills for last year's Class 2 Road Project. Payment should be issued within a month or so.</p>				

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**Town Buildings—New Business**

04-05-Bldg-a	<b>Sale of Old Office</b>	03-08-04	Ongoing	RW
<p>The Board requested that the Clerk notify interested parties that the Town agreed to allow the Board to sell the old Office, and get that particular process started.</p> <p>The Board declined to consider using the old Office as a field office for the Enhancement Grant project.</p>				

William Ford

Lauren Cox

Ronald Wimett