

Class VI Road Ad Hoc Committee

Minutes of November 1, 2007 meeting

Members present: Doug Steele, Dean Trefethen, Cheryl Niles, Jack McLaughlin, Tom Fargo, Paul Vlasich, Betsey McNaughten, and Bruce Woodruff.

Meeting called to order at 5:07pm.

There was only brief discussion on Hanson Road as the chair did not have time to write the formal recommendations. They will be ready for the next meeting.

Discussion continued on Green Hill Road. There is about 1500 feet of this road in Dover and it continues into Madbury and Barrington. There is no other outlet in Madbury but there are two in Barrington. The committee agrees this road is now a Class VI road but that it should be changed to a Class A Municipal trail. As a trail, an organization would be designated to maintain the right of way (ROW) and would help enforce the proper use of the trail. By having this ROW as a trail, there could be bollards or other means of access restriction to help control dumping of trash that has occurred in the past. Fargo made a motion to recognize this road as a Class VI now but to change it to a Class A municipal trail, Steele seconded. Vote was 6-1 with Vlasich opposed. It is recognized that the city will need to work with Madbury and Barrington to make the trail a reality, and in the meantime the road will remain in Class VI status.

Woodruff presented some new documentation for Cold Spring Road that he felt might change the committee's earlier decision that this road is a private road. The road appears on the 1834 map of Dover, but he also has information about subsequent land transfers and documentation from a 1972 subdivision. The subdivision language says it is the intention of the abutting land owners to maintain this road themselves as a private road. Discussion ensued concerning if the earlier decision is affected by this new information or not. The committee feels it changes nothing, so the earlier decision will stand...private road.

An unnamed road off Back River Road, just south of Wingate Lane had been identified in a previous Citizen's Forum as a possible Class VI road and one that has been receiving city maintenance. Woodruff showed subdivision documents from 1982 and 1986, and Zoning Board of Adjustment variance allowing lots with no road frontage, which do not contain any ROW's. What is now used as the access road to these lots is actually part of one of the lots, with easements granted to other lots. Steele does not think the city has been maintaining this road at all, but will reiterate to crews they should not. Also, the city's E-911 committee should be informed about the situation as addresses for some of these lots are not clearly marked and could be overlooked easily in an emergency situation. The committee decided this is a private road with Steele motioning and Vlasich seconding. Vote was unanimous.

The status of Old Rollinsford Road was questioned at an earlier Citizens' Forum. Woodruff and Steele confirmed that the paved portion is a Class V road, and the where the pavement ends and the gate stands it is Class VI from there until the Rollinsford town line, a distance of a couple of hundred feet. It is agreed that proper signage needs to be erected where the pavement ends and at the Rollinsford town line and we need to communicate with Rollinsford what we think is the status of the road. Steele motioned, McLaughlin seconded. Unanimous.

Another road brought up as a possible Class VI road was the extension of High Ridge Drive. As discussion on this area unfolded, it was determined that the “trails” at the end of the improved portion of High Ridge Drive are a combination of utility easements and walking paths. There is no continuation of the road. Also, it was determined that the original concern was actually about the extension of Brick Road. Woodruff feels there is no documentation showing this road continuing to the top of Garrison Hill. Rick Hebbard thinks he has a map that does show it, which he will bring to the next meeting.

Discussion continued on which Class VI roads could be designated as “emergency lanes”. Fargo wrote a suggested recommendation that did not designate any roads at this time, but further suggested criteria the city council could use to designate one in the future if deemed necessary. After the discussion on these suggestions, the committee agreed to two criteria, the presence of a house or residence on the road, and whether the road may be needed for emergency access in the future. Fargo motioned for approval, Niles seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Citizen’s Forum: No speakers.

Future meeting dates were set for November 13 and 20 (if needed). It was noted that the meeting of the 13th could be the last meeting of the committee as there were only two roads not completed and the chair thought they could be completed at that meeting.

Adjournment 6:30pm: Fargo motion, Steele second. Unanimous