

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

Sunday, July 30, 2023, noon, Old Schoolhouse Common and Zoom

Present: Selectboard members Richard Baker, Justin Campbell; Town Clerk Bobbi Brimblecombe; Visitors: Mark Tucker (CCSU Superintendent); Mark Kaufman (School Board member and Onion River Road resident); Diana Estes (Onion River Road resident)

At noon p.m. the meeting was called to order by Chair Richard Baker

Changes or additions to the agenda: none

Onion River Road: Mark Tucker called the Town Clerk's Office on Friday to voice concerns with the use of the school property as an emergency access. He followed up with a letter to the Board. He indicated that he is not willing to have the school property used to facilitate the re-opening of the campground. Mark Kaufman explained that other than the campground, there are 10 permanent residents of the road. He explained that there are 3 people with disabilities on the road, and there is no access by emergency personnel.

Justin explained that the town agrees that this is an emergency situation and must be dealt with immediately. He explained that we have been working through the process of solving the problem of the destroyed bridge, and now have the information from VTrans that we need in order to issue a bid request for a temporary bridge. We will make this happen as soon as possible, depending on the availability of contractors.

Mark Kaufman asked whether the Town has contacted the national guard for placement of a temporary bridge, and whether they have considered building a footbridge and having parking on Route 2. Justin explained that the State Emergency Operations Center is aware of our situation and they have instructed him to work through VTrans.

Rich suggested the Town should research the rules around health orders, to require the closure of the campground due to lack of access and lack of electricity. He suggested that people on Onion River Road will need to decide whether they want to stay at their homes at their own risk until the temporary access is built, and Bobbi noted that they could be advised to apply to FEMA for provide rental assistance. Rich stated that we might need to send notice to all of the isolated property owners, recommending that they leave because there is no emergency access, no fire access, and we can not guarantee their safety. Rich will ask VLCT for property wording.

Diana Estes commented that even if FEMA would provide rental assistance, there is no housing available and no way to bring their belongings from their property. Rich stated that FEMA may be willing to provide assistance to pay for a hotel.

Mark Tucker asked about the Board's thinking about the temporary road along the river bank. After researching, it is not a workable solution due to the easement and floodway considerations,

and it may take longer than installing a temporary bridge.

After discussing the options, the Board decided that the best course of action is to issue an RFP for a temporary bridge, with bids to be due in as short a time as is reasonable to allow for several bids. Bobbi will send an RFP, using the State’s scope of work, to as many bridge contractors as possible, and post it on a contracting website as recommended by the State. The bids will be due in 8 days, and the Board will hold an emergency meeting on August 8th to open the bids.

SASS Ave: Justin has spoken with VTrans. They recommended a temporary bridge, installed as soon as possible. Because this is the only vehicle access, this is also an emergency. The Board decided that the best course of action is to issue an RFP for a temporary bridge, using the same schedule and method as Onion River Road.

Holt Road: VTrans has stated that we need to replace this bridge. It is not an emergency, because people can go around the site, so we will wait to get bids for a permanent bridge. Justin indicated that the State may be able to help us with this design.

Cassady Road: This bridge is not completely destroyed but the state has indicated that it is not safe to reopen this bridge until one of the abutments is repaired. This is an emergency situation because there is no other access for emergency vehicles, etc. The Board decided that the best course of action in this case is to issue an RFP using the same procedure as with the other two bridges, using the information from the State’s bridge inspection report to direct contractors for the work needed to repair the abutment.

Procurement: The Board updated the procurement policy to include references to the current federal dollar amounts of the minor purchasing threshold and the simplified action threshold.

Folsom Hill Road: The Town has received a request from a homeowner to look at drainage issues. Justin is going to meet with the State to review the drainage.

Old Schoolhouse Common: The water is still coming into the basement, into the elevator. Justin feels that we will need to do some type of remediation in the future. Rich noted that it is possible that this is the new water table level.

The meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Bobbi Brimblecombe, Town Clerk

The foregoing is a true copy of the Minutes of the July 30, 2023 Selectboard Meeting.
A True Record. Attest, _____, Town Clerk
