

Minutes of the Westmoreland Selectmen's Meeting

Tuesday, June 6, 2022

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Russ Austin, Frank Reeder, John Snowdon

The meeting was called to order at 9:30am by Russ Austin

1. Rail Trail Letter - Dan Shelley requested the board sign a revised Rail Trail Support letter. Letter needed for grant application to rehabilitate the approximately six mile segment that runs through Westmoreland. Grant is an 80% with 20% match which will be covered in volunteer labor. Town not financially responsible for maintenance. Town will work with Keene Sno-Riders club president, Jeremy Evans, as needed to complete the project. Once Westmoreland gets the grant rehabilitation will begin this year from Surry through the cut part of Westmoreland. Next year work will be done from there to Walpole. Reeder - Good for the community and no cost to town. Selectmen agreed to sign the letter in support of the grant.
2. Reynolds Road
 - Town Ordinance in compliance with NH Municipal Association states that no land development may be permitted on lots which do not have required frontage on a public road, which is Class V or better.
 - At the April 21st Selectmen's meeting Jason Simino requested to upgrade Reynolds Road from Class VI to Class V to create another building lot. At that time Simino was told Selectmen would need to decide with the Road Agent if the road is to be paved or remain gravel and can then have Town vote in March 2023.
 - RSA 231:22a - A town meeting vote to reclassify a class VI highway under this section may provide that the highway be conditionally reclassified upon compliance with betterment assessments, as provided in RSA 231:28-33, even if such condition was not stated as part of the warrant article.
 - Simino requests requirements of what would need to be done to bring the road up to a Class V since he would be responsible for the cost. Simino also wants the Town to see if a special Town Meeting could be held to decide sooner than March.
 - Abutters will have to be notified 90 days prior to vote.
 - Reynolds Road intersects with Lincoln Road which is currently Class VI and continues to River Road although not easily accessible at that end. With hundreds of acres of backland on Lincoln Road, Reynolds Road could be open to potential future development and higher traffic volume.

- Road Agent, Dave Poklemba - Road will need to meet the Town's road standards which require roads to be wider, culverts larger, and specified road base. Width could be a problem with stonewall and ledge.
- RSA 231:22a - The costs assessed against the owners by the selectmen shall not reflect construction standards any higher or more stringent than those reflected in the best town highway giving access to the highway or portion thereof being reclassified. Reynolds Road intersects with the paved section of Poocham Road and continues to River Road.
- Reeder - should consult with Town Attorney to see if appropriate to require Reynolds to use the same width, shoulder, and surface as where it intersects with Poocham Road, and how to proceed if abutters don't want the road to be upgraded. Also consult with the Planning Board about upgrading road standard ordinances, and any issues with other towns they may know of.
- Austin - Siminos should contact the Town Moderator about a Special Town Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40am

Respectfully submitted,
Jodi Scanlan
Town Administrative Assistant

NEXT MEETING – THURSDAY JUNE 23, 2022 6:00pm
MINUTES ARE INITIALLY POSTED AS UNAPPROVED
SELECTMEN SIGNATURES DENOTE APPROVAL

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Russ Austin, Chairman

Frank Reeder

John Snowdon