

Westmoreland Planning Board Minutes  
7/18/22

Attending: Laruen Bresett, Alison Fissette, Bruce Smith, Tim Thompson, Larry Siegel, Kristen Riley (clerk, alt.). Excused: Liana Capra  
Guest: Road Agent Dave Poklemba

Lauren Bresett] called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Review of minutes: 06/30/2022  
Tim Thompson noted that the last page, first paragraph should read the name Jacob, not Jason. A few sentences later, "Selectman" singular should become "Selectmen," plural. Tim Thomson moved to accept minutes as corrected, Bruce seconds, and all voted in favor.

Old Business: Discussion of Road Standards

Updates to standards were proposed by the board in 201, the board looked at these revisions. Dave Poklemba spoke in regards to these standards. New standards will display measurements solely in feet. He pointed out the minimum standard of road width of 22 foot width with four foot shoulders was more suitable to the state regulations and he suggested changing it to 2 foot shoulders.

Dave Poklemba also spoke on the subject of opening or upgrading roads and the importance of not allowing it to occur if a road is below set standards. Upgrading roads increases buildable lot frontage, thus increasing traffic from what might occur at this moment in time and should be planned for. Another point expressed by Dave Poklemba, was in regards to opening a new road. If someone were to petition to open a new road, the road should not only meet set standards but should be paved. Upkeep of gravel roads has consumed significant funds set aside to maintain paved roads. The monetary responsibility of upgrading a road by RSA would fall on all property owners of that road, as they are the ones to benefit from it. However, it should be considered that the future maintenance of the road becomes the town's responsibility.

Larry Siegel spoke in defense of gravel roads. He believes the size and quality of roads promote development. A gravel road limits traffic, and slower traffic promotes walkable roads. One of the key qualities of a rural town is small roads. Yes, they require more work, but that is part of the rural character of life.

Other alterations discussed were the standards of a "thick gravel base" on the road. For now, it is 15 inches. Dave said that base compacts down an inch a year, due to weather conditions.

John Snowden mentioned some arbitrary wording in current road standards. For example, 12 uses the word "unreasonable." This word has been omitted.

Our notes will go to selectmen for comments, then there will be a hearing at the next planning board meeting.

Other Business: Review of fee schedule

Bruce makes a motion that we leave our fee schedule as set, Tim Thompson seconds the motion. All vote in favor.

Larry makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bruce seconds this motion. All vote in favor.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:41 pm.