

Minutes of Selectmen's Meeting September 28, 2017
(approved 10/12/17)

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm. Present at the meeting: Selectmen Vern Worthen, Chris Tibbetts, and Norman Redlevske; Tax Collector and Treasurer Yolanda Violette; Secretary Fran Varney; Donnie Howard (for road updates), Julia Howard, Cynthia Pine, John Violette (also Yolanda Violette as individual landowner).

Citizen requests:

(1) Cynthia Pine was the first to speak as citizen request/comment. She believes work should be done on two culverts near her place, and asked the Selectmen when that would happen. She pointed out that some things get done, and others don't. Vern responded that he and Donnie had visited the culverts on Elm Street multiple times, but did not see an immediate problem.

Roads: (Donnie and Selectmen)

- Over the course of several years, Rome Road has been almost completely rebuilt (except for 800 to 1000 feet
- Donnie said there will be at least one more town wide grading, but more rain is needed first.
- Donnie reported that sand pile has been put up.
- CMP poles are being replaced in different locations throughout town (CMP chooses which ones they need to replace).

Citizen requests:

(2) John Violette asked about the Town's future plans for Brown Road: both as to the work scope details and the time line. He said a letter describing the work project should have been sent to landowners in advance so that landowners would have opportunity to agree, disagree or take other action. John was opposed to cutting trees along Brown Road, as it did not seem necessary to him. Vern Worthen felt that there had been extensive discussion about the Brown Road project with John, including the possibility of a cross culvert at one time. John felt there was a brief discussion with Vern about erosion from the Bridges' driveway, and that Vern mentioned that the Town might do work on the Brown Road. John felt the work he did on Bridges' driveway and the silt fence he put up solved the erosion problem. Vern said that John did a great job on Bridges' driveway, but that it did not totally fix the problem. John felt it was a personal decision to cut so many trees.

(3) Chris Tibbetts pointed out that in the past 10 to 12 years Vern has not brought up doing any work on the Brown Road. Chris believed the town work on Brown road was in response to the complaint about the erosion from Bridges' driveway, also to the snow removal issue. He didn't feel the emphasis on Vern was accurate. John answered that everyone on the Brown Road should be treated the same, and other places on Brown Road are more in need of fixing, such as the entrance to Rt. 2. Vern mentioned that snow removal is not an issue near the Jonas Worthen property line.

(4) John said he knew how the evening discussions would go. Chris asked what that meant. In the interest of ending discussion and moving along, John asked what the plan is now. Vern said getting rid of brush, ditching on both sides of the road, widening the road. Vern

also said that he was sorry that John felt it was a personal matter. Chris mentioned that conversations with land owners are the typical method in Mercer to communicate about road matters, not mailing a letter. John said he could seek legal means to stop the town work on the road. Vern said he told John, when threatened with a lawsuit against the town in a previous meeting on Brown Road to discuss work on the road, to say it in person to Vern if that is what John planned to do. Chris asked John what end result John wants. Chris asked if a meeting and compromise is possible. John pointed out that more width is needed near Rt 2 entrance. Gerry and Donnie mentioned that the state is also involved in work on the entranceway to Rt. 2. Yolanda pointed out that a more dangerous part of the road is the hill below former Lori Drodge property, and Vern said the section of the road below Lori's would require blasting.

(5) There was discussion among the selectmen about snow removal and the erosion issue. Gerry mentioned that snow removal and ditching are issues, and perhaps widening might not be necessary. John mentioned that Buzz plans to remove snow on his driveway in such a way this year that it doesn't disturb the work John has done. Vern said the right way for a typical road project is fabric, gravel and ditching.

(6) More specific discussions about where the water from east side of Brown Road will go, Vern mentioned pooling it on east side (catch basin) so it drains into the ground, not across the road. Another issue is height of Brown Road where it meets the Violette driveway. Donnie and Selectmen and Violettes will meet at the Brown Road to look at options and details on Tuesday October 10, then Selectmen will meet again Thursday October 12.

(7) John and Yolanda plan to chip the brush the weekend of Sept. 30/Oct. 1.

Citizen requests (notes left with Yolanda)

- Grading on Pond Road, Rome Road, Elm Street? – Donnie will do after we have some rain.
- 204 Rome Road washout – Gerry will call landowner about grading, calcium?
- Valley Road sign – Gerry will replace
- Lights at town building
- Road work - Decker Road and West Sandy River Road

GA Ordinance and Appendices - Hearing on Ordinance and Appendices held, approved 3-0.

Water quality survey – Nature Conservancy - no action taken

Audubon Society - Sarah Hagarty - grant possibility for spring culvert repair. Any connection with BRCA Charlie Baeder phone call.

Warrant signed – 3-0

Agreement with Shane Alexson signed 3-0

Adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Fran Varney, Secretary