

Road and Weed Committee Meeting Minutes January 16, 2018

Attending Committee Members: Chairman Dennis Riley, Newman Brozovsky, Gerald Dubiel, Richard Johnson (RJ), Tim Brockett, Claudette Dirkers, Linda Ulrich, Ia Williams and Walter Wunsch

Absent Committee Members: Jeff Riederer and Valery O'Connell

Other Attendees: Fred Counts, Sally Muto, Donna Lash-Andersen and Micah Dirkers

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 PM. A quorum was met without any participants calling in.

1. **Snowplowing Coordination:** Snowplow operator Fred Counts voiced the following concerns regarding snowplowing for the GLA:
 - Repair costs to the earlier model commercial snowplow truck are high due to ongoing maintenance. He gave a thorough report of his expenditures, and then indicated that it is time to renegotiate his contract.
 - The access road to the NG Quonset hut where sand is stored is, "full of ruts and slimy" making it hazardous for vehicles. He advised that the road base be raised at least 3-5 inches with a combination of pit run topped off with gravel.
 - The dimensions of the Quonset hut driveway need expansion for dump trucks to safely deliver sand without obstructing traffic on lower Sirius Hill. For years, truck drivers have had to back across the main entrance to NG.
 - Glastonbury roads are rough and rocky causing damage to his tempered steel plow blade. He would like us to remove the larger rocks from our roadbeds.

Action Item: Fred agreed to mark specific locations of prominent rocks on maps in the platted road booklets provided to him by the Road Committee.

Dennis expressed that most of these problems must be solved by both committee members and Fred by collaborating with a road contractor.

Claudette brought up the dilemma that exists when the GLA Treasurer requests that the coordinators confirm plowing and sanding invoices, while snowplow drivers self-dispatch without follow-up notification.

Motion: Tim motioned that GLA Snowplow Drivers need to keep a logbook of their mileage and hours of time worked, so snowplowing costs and invoices can be documented. Gerald seconded. Motion carried, unanimously.

2. **Order Sand:** Temporarily delayed due to problems with unsafe access to Quonset hut. Dryness of sand must be first inspected by an onsite visit. Once order is placed, delivery of sand takes 3-4 days.

- ◆ The priority is to expedite the repair of the access driveway to the Quonset hut.

Motion: Walter made a motion for the committee to design a plan and gather contractor bids to fix the problems concerning the Quonset hut. This plan includes a turnaround for dump trucks, plus a future extension to the building to increase storage space for dry sand. It is important to purchase all the dry sand for the winter at one time, before its moisture content increases commensurate with the wet weather. Claudette seconded. Motion carried.

Action Item: Fred will expedite an initial meeting with Chad Standish and at least two Road Committee members.

3. **Ideas for Spring and Summer Projects:**

- To solve safety concerns at the intersection of Aries and Capricorn.
- To hire an engineer to evaluate the ongoing flooding that is damaging the gravel roadbed on a stretch of Capricorn Drive.
- To finish the culvert project that began in 2017.
- A few new culverts need to be installed to divert water in specific locations prior to spring grading. Doing so will dry out the saturated roadbed, thus facilitating the board-approved test application of mag chloride on sections of gravel roads in both NG/SG.
- The need for additional reflectors/delimiters on arterial roads and paved section of Sirius Drive which help to define road edges for drivers and snowplow operators.
- Weed spraying/mowing in certain areas, and restorative seeding of native species in other places, to be addressed at our committee meetings in March and April.

Available funds will be discussed at our next meeting. Tim recommended that a line item be added to the new budget for hiring a road engineer in 2018.

4. **Work Updates-Safety Signs Ordered, Snow Fence installation, Fall Grading and SG Culverts:**

- Twenty (20) safety signs have been ordered for NG, and twenty (20) for SG. The total came in underbudget. Tim mentioned that Chevron Road Signs would be mounted to the guardrail on Suicide Curve in SG sometime soon.
- Snow fence installation in both NG and SG had been completed by a crew of volunteer landowners. Goals were met on time and underbudget, as well.

- Before winter descended, some fall grading and culvert cleaning had been done in SG. Further grading work in NG had to be delayed until next spring.

5. **Committee Communications:** The following ideas were suggested to Tim, by John Carp:

- He has a dream of a bicycle path in NG
- He advocates road grading three (3) times each year
- He also has issues with the lack of guardrails on Lower Gemini Hill

Ramp letter: Dennis had informed Ms. Ramp that the ditches across from her property would need to remain in place for safety reasons, and that it is her responsibility to install a driveway and a culvert.

Action Item: Tim will write a letter to the Dawson's in NG addressing their drainage issues.

Action item: Dennis will write a second letter to Steve Soiros asking him to move his awkwardly parked trailer away from the side of a SG road.

Errors were made in the original "Thank You Cards" intended for SG gravel donors. They will soon be corrected and sent.

6. **Repair of Roadside Ditches on Sirius Paved (CUT Demand Letter):** Dennis explained that representatives from both GLA and CUT would be sitting down to discuss the above and other pertinent issues.

7. **Member Absenteeism - Dubiel and O'Connell:** For the first time in over half a year due to illness, Gerald appeared at the committee meeting. He assured us that he would be more responsible about calling in if he were absent again, to help establish a meeting quorum. Committee member Val O'Connell has yet to attend a meeting. Dennis recommended we postpone voting her off the committee until legal matters are settled. All agreed.

8. **Team Member Additions:**

Motion: Ia made a motion to add Donna Lash-Andersen to the committee. Walter seconded. Voice vote approval.

Following protocol, Ia will ask that Donna be appointed to the Road Committee at the February GLA Board Meeting.

Aside from the above, Tim suggested a moratorium on adding any more people to the committee for the foreseeable future, stating that we have now have a viable number of members who are highly functional.

9. **Next Road Committee Meeting:** Scheduled for February 20th at 12 Gemini Road in North Glastonbury.

The meeting closed at 8:53 pm.