

Minutes of the TOCI Road Plan Committee Thursday October 27 at 1:00 at the Firehouse

Present: Wayne Dyer, Beth Howe, Malcolm Rice

Also present: Eric Dyer, Mark Dyer.

1. Minutes

Malcolm had a correction in the minutes – the Road Plan public meeting will be November 3 not 4. Beth moved, seconded by Wayne to approve the minutes as amended. Approved unanimously.

2. Road Plan public meeting:

Malcolm said he wanted to go over the format for the meeting. He will cover the introduction. He asked Wayne if he would talk about the history of Chebeague's roads – most were not built to any modern standard, neglect by Cumberland, and condition in various seasons. Wayne gave an example of construction under Cumberland – Reggie Davis wanted to tar Cottage Road and Milt Cap, the Road Commissioner was adamantly opposed because he said it was not ready.

Then Beth will talk about the Road Plan. She passed around some power-point slides she had made that might be used in the presentation and said she wants to talk a little about the cross section of a paved road from DOT. She said that since Wayne knows much more about roads, would he talk about the problems with Chebeague's roads? Wayne said that the sides of the roads are a mess so that water does not run down into the ditches. The biggest issue we need to deal with is drainage and culverts. But often homeowners don't like having the Town ditching in their front yard, so it is difficult to do.

Beth said she had found out from Herb that he had GPSed the culverts and had made a map of them, but that he had not done an evaluation of them or developed a plan for their maintenance and replacement. Someone said that they had heard that 75 culverts need replacing. There are new culverts up at the Town Garage. Beth said that sometimes fixing the drainage may also require acquiring easements from abutters. There was a discussion of culverts under driveways. The Town may pay for the first one put in, but after that it is up to the homeowner.

Malcolm brought the group back to the presentation: Beth said she would talk about the Road Plan – how it was done and what it found and she would talk about the power-point slide about condition and needed maintenance of roads, and about the costs of different repair options. She had made a couple of power-point slides to illustrate the cost of different options. Malcolm suggested adding the costs as estimated by Pike industries as well.

Mark asked whether the Committee would be making recommendations at the meeting. There is still money to be spent in this year's budget. Beth said this was only our second meeting so we have not gotten far on recommendations. We did have a discussion about Firehouse Road and the idea of returning it to gravel. The people from the north end of the road came and made clear that they did not want to have a dirt road. But everyone agreed that the drainage needs to be worked on. Beth asked if we can use the capital budget money to not only replace culverts but also to do some systematic research on the drainage there and on John Small Road. Mark

said he thought so. Eric said he thought that these roads might require changes in the locations of the culverts.

Eric said that he thought that Division Point Road was in pretty bad shape. Wayne said the base for it had been good but there was very little tar on top and it did not have a proper crown. It might be moved up in the priority list as a road for reclaim. Maybe that could be done this spring.

Beth said at the presentation we can talk about the recommendations made in the plan, with Firehouse, John Small and North Road the recommendations for the next several years. We can also talk about what additional research on the condition of the roads the Committee was planning to do.

The slides of cost options led to a discussion of the roads that the Town has done already. South Road was resurfaced by Cumberland, but with no preparation beforehand such as work on the culverts. School House Road's surface, down about 6 inches, was removed and reclaimed. Only about an inch at the top was tar. Then the reclaim was laid down and resurfaced. Wharf Road had the same treatment, but without the surface coat. Mark said he was not happy with the resurfacing of Wharf Road – there had not been enough preparation. But he said that one thing the Committee should make clear to the public is that the roads will never be perfect. Things like the weather, the maintenance and the initial surface will all affect how the road wears. But using the reclaimed pavement seems to work very well.

Mark suggested that the Committee do the rest of the culvert plan. It might not take a lot of time. Beth asked if we have suitable people with the time to do it. Mark suggested that Erik, Wayne and Malcolm do it. Eric and Wayne were not sure about having the time to do this. There was discussion of hiring an engineer. Eric said that was the kind of thing that he hoped could be done by someone who could also do the core samples. Wayne said that any engineer would develop recommendations that were far too elaborate for Chebeague. Malcolm asked if Wayne had contacted Dick Sweet to see if he would be willing to do it. Wayne said that the engineer they had to do the bridge on John Small Road had been good, but no one could remember his name. Eric will ask Seaver. Eric said that another piece of this issue is identifying drainage easements that the Town needs to acquire. Wayne had not, but someone will contact him.. It was decided that Mark and Malcolm would do it over the weekend of November 5, before Malcolm leaves. Beth will take notes.

The group decided to do Firehouse, John Small and North Road first. They also laid out the information the culvert survey should collect:

- Diameter
- Material
- Condition,
- Length
- How much cover it has
- Whether it is plugged up

3. Gravel Road Survey

Beth said she had found the survey instrument for gravel roads that we should use for that. But it sounded like culverts were a higher priority at this point than surveying the gravel roads.

4. Test Boring Status

Eric said he was too busy to find someone to do this, but someone from the committee could try to find someone who could do this if Sweet does not have the equipment or declines for some other reason. Malcolm asked how many borings he thought might be needed. Eric said he thought anywhere between 30 and 50. Eric explained to Mark that this could either be done by taking a round boring or it could be done less elegantly with a back-hoe. The purpose is to see what kind of base the roads actually have.

5. Crack Sealing

Eric said that crack sealing had been done on the repaved part of South Road, and at parking lots at the Stone Wharf, Chandler's Cove and the Firehouse. It is finished.

8. Date for next meeting

Eric said that at the Selectmen's public hearing on legislation there had been a request that, as a Town Committee, the committee have its meetings in the evening or on the weekend. Beth said that she would have trouble fitting in more meetings in the evening. It was agreed to hold the next meeting on November 17. Beth said that is a Planning Board Evening so that she would not be able to come, and suggested that the meeting be at 1:00.