Town of Colrain

Select Board Meeting

Remote Conference Call-in

6:00 P.M.

# MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 8, 2020

**Present** Mark Thibodeau, Joe Kurland, Mike Slowinski

**Others Present** Jonathan Legreze, David Nims, Mary Beth Chichester, Linda Vickety, Linda Magee, Chris Lannon, Police Chief; Kimberly Noake MacPhee, FRCOG, Scott Sullivan, Highway Superintendent; Betsy Shuipis, Administrative Asst.; Kevin Fox, Town Administrator

The meeting, held remotely through conference call-in, was called to order by Mark Thibodeau at 6 p.m.

**Appointments Chris Lannon, Police Chief – Town-Wide Speed Limit Proposal 6:00 PM**

Chief Lannon does not recommend using a town-wide speed limit, but rather street-by-street. These streets would be:

* Adamsville Rd. (from Main Rd to intersection of Foundry Village Rd.)
* Main Rd.
* Call Rd.
* Coombs Hill Rd.
* Dwight Cross Rd.
* Foundry Rd.
* Lyonsville Rd.
* Nelson Rd.
* River St.
* Shelburne Line Rd.
* West Leyden Rd.

**Questions:**

* **Would DOT or the Town pay for the signs?** The Town would be responsible for buying the signs, which are approximately $100 each.
* **What are the speed limits on roads that are not posted?** Under 90-17 Mass. Law, on a divided highway outside a thickly settled or business district for at least a ¼ of a mile are considered 50 mph (Greenfield Rd., Jacksonville Rd., parts of Adamsville Rd.) On an undivided highway, it’s 40 mph outside of a thickly settled or business area for at least a ¼ of a mile. In a thickly settled or business district, 30 mph, and in a legally established school zone, 20 mph. (A yellow line in the middle of the road denotes a divided highway.)
* **Does “Total roads in Colrain” include roads in Foundry Acres and King’s Bluff?** Yes, it does. The report includes all the roads on the Town’s street listings.

Many factors will be considered in the study presented to MassDot– grade, pitch of degrees in a turn, shoulder width, condition of the road, clearances, types of vehicles that travel on the road and more.

**There are three phases:** The first phase is implementation of the Ch. 90 Sec. 17C, which would allow the Town to vote on a 25 mph on certain roads to be submitted to MASSDOT for approval. The second phase is to re-evaluate the current speed limits that MASSDOT has on file (Main Rd to Jacksonville Rd. and Greenfield Rd.). In the third phase we’ll conduct a study of other highly-travelled roads that don’t have posted speed limits on now.

**MOVED:** Mike Slowinski moved to adopt the proposal submitted by Chief Lannon to

submit to MassDOT to post speed limits on 11 roads – Adamsville Rd., Main Rd., Call Rd., Coombs Hill Rd., Dwight Crossing Rd., Foundry Rd., Lyonsville Rd., Nelson Rd., River Rd., Shelburne Line Rd.., West Leyden Rd., -- and to proceed with the studies of Phase II and Phase III. Joe Kurland seconded. Roll call: **all ayes.**

**Scott Sullivan – Chapter 90 Project Request – Coombs Hill Road, Greenfield Road roadside improvement project proposal and departmental update.**

Scott and Kevin are working on a grant to re-do Greenfield Road. Scott also proposes to put in a Chapter 90 request for Coombs Hill Rd.

**MOVED:** Joe Kurland moved that we approve the Chapter 90 project request for Coombs Hill Road. Mike Slowinski seconded. Roll call: **all ayes.**

Greenfield Road roadside cleanup. Scott intends to clean up under the guardrails on Greenfield Rd., but for one stretch of the road he’d like to rent a skid steer to ensure safety and efficiency. The Select Board supports Scott’s plan to rent the skid steer.

At the next meeting, the Surplus Fill Policy will be reviewed.

Scott’s department updates. The town mowing is almost finished and scraping guardrails continues; Greenfield Rd. roadside work is ongoing; and the covered bridge signs arrived and will be installed this week. Scott will look into getting a chain across the top of the bridge.

No update on Charlemont Bridge yet.

**Kimberly Noake MacPhee (FRCOG) Public Review & Comment 2020 Draft Hazard Mitigation Plan**

The plan was updated last in 2014. In 2020, three additional hazards were added to the plan so it aligns with Commonwealth of Massachusetts 2018 Climate Change Adaption and Hazard Mitigation Plan: drought, invasive species, and temperature change. The goal of doing this work is related to the 2018 Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Plan where the Town received MVP designation; a status that makes it eligible for state funding. The Hazard Mitigation Plan provides access to federal funding.

The 2020 Action Plan (Table 4-3) – The projects that are identified in the table fall into three categories: Local Plans & Regulations, Critical Facilities & Infrastructure, and Public Education & Outreach. There will be a public comment period that will run for 2 weeks (Sept. 14 start date through Sept. 28 closing date). The plan will be available on our website with two hard copies available to read at Town Offices. There will be a press release and a flyer posted at Town Offices, and all Town boards and committees will be notified.

In the next few days, Kimberly will send Kevin Fox an updated draft to post on our website (any errors or omissions noted by Select Board will be corrected). Once the public comment period closes, the plan goes to the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency for review, then to FEMA for review and approval pending adoption process where it is sent to the Select Board to formally adopt the plan. FEMA will issue the final approval letter and the plan will be good for five years.

**New Business Review of Arthur A. Smith Covered Bridge Use Policy**

Jonathan Lagreze read a statement about work he has done in trying to draft a compromise model of use of the Arthur A. Smith Covered Bridge. Jonathan asks to form a Town committee to consider bridge use policy that would include himself, the police chief, fire chief, highway superintendent, a member of the Select Board. Linda Magee said this was a good idea. David Nims said no - just open the bridge to traffic without stipulations.

**The vote from the previous meeting on the opening of Arthur A. Smith Covered Bridge to vehicular traffic stands. The Select Board does not want Kevin Fox to contact Town Counsel regarding the Smith Bridge Use Policy at this time.**

**Old Business Proposed STM Warrant**

**MOVED:** Mike Slowinski moved to approve the five articles in the Special Town Meeting Warrant. Joe Kurland seconded. Roll call: **all ayes.**

**Town Coordinator**

**Updates There is no update yet on 3 Main Road.**

**MOVED:** Mike Slowinski moved to close the meeting at 7:20 p.m. Joe Kurland seconded. **All ayes.**

Respectfully submitted, Accepted by the Select Board

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Betsy Shuipis Mark Thibodeau, Chair

Administrative Assistant

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Joe Kurland

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Mike Slowinski

Documents

Select Board Meeting Notes

State Aid Reimbursable Programs – Project Request, Coombs Hill Rd – 2” HMA Overlay, estimated cost of $30,987.62.

Arthur A. Smith Covered Bridge Policy

Arthur A. Smith Covered Bridge Usage Request Form

Special Town Meeting Warrant Fiscal Year 2021

Planning Board Meeting Minutes of 9/2/20