

SUMMARY OF ROAD VIEWING

Site visit TH#34 Bonnie View Lane December 8,
2018

Call to order: 3 PM

Present: Helyn Strom-Henriksen, Joseph Berard and
Norman Wilber, Ted Hopkins, Richard Vanguilder,
Gary Ross, Forrest Hicks

Two of the Selectboard members along with the DPW
Superintendent, Norman Wilber viewed the section
of TH#34 approximately .06 hundredths of a mile.
They discussed the road width and turn around area
as well as the road usage to try to determine if it is
within the best interest of the Town to change or
discontinue the classification of this road.

Adjourned: 3:20pm

Submitted by Norman Wilber, DPW Superintendent

Bonnieview Road Hearing December 8, 2018

Call to Order at 3:30 pm

Present: Helyn Strom-Henriksen, Joseph Berard, Norman Wilber, Karen Boisvert, Richard Van Guilder, Gary Ross, Forrest Hicks, Ted Hopkins, Jody Berard-Kemp, Michael and Ruth O'Hearn

Selectboard Chair Helyn Strom- Henriksen gave a brief history of why we are present here today. The State of Vermont sent a letter to the Town stating that Howe Pond Road was not up to State Standards and to either bring it up to the standards or reclassify. The Selectboard asked DPW Superintendent Norman Wilber if there were any other roads that he felt should be reclassified or discontinued at this time to do them all at once. A site visit was performed at 3 pm on December 8, 2018.

Jody Berard-Kemp:

Jody asked why this road was being plowed in the first place. She was told that all Class III roads are plowed by the Town. Jody also asked the homeowner if he would work with the group that uses the well and he stated that he would not deny access but had no intention of plowing the road himself. He stated he would park at the bottom by the mail box and walk up to the house so access would be limited in the winter.

Richard Vanguilder:

Mr. Vanguilder stated that the residents on Branch Hill had a well on his property that they use his road for motorized access for maintenance several times a year. He explained there was another route up a trail that comes to the well from below. He also stated that in the past the Fire Department has used his property for trainings and ATV's use it for recreation. He states that the Sherriff's Department also patrols his road. He feels that no maintenance has been done on his road. He asked how much it cost to maintain and Norman told him he did not have concrete figures other than the Town receives \$100 annually from the State to maintain the road. He spoke of future development of his 38 acres citing the possibility of solar panels and a telecommunication tower. He feels the Town should provide water to the residents on Branch Hill and then discontinue his road.

Ted Hopkins:

Mr. Hopkins, who identified himself as the well's caretaker, is concerned about losing easy access to the well. He is also concerned if the property is ever sold the new owner may not allow them access. Mr. Hopkins presented the board with a packet laying out concerns for all three roads under discussion. Specific to Bonnieview Road he states "Thoughts on Bonnieview

Drive: this highway is the route for the Sheldon Spring users to have access to our well which serves 7 homesteads on Brooklyn Street. Just as of two weeks ago we had a major break in our line and we had to frequent our well several times for repairs. In addition, Bonnieview Drive on the Vanguilder property could be a future site for some type of communications tower which could serve a great deal of residents in Town. Eliminating any right of way could easily thwart any attempts by professionals to work a deal good for all parties. Remember the right of ways the Selectboard had to obtain for the major water project a few years ago?"

Forrest Hicks:

Mr. Hicks stated that he realizes the Sheldon Spring is really not the Towns problem.

Ruth O'Hearn:

Mrs. O'Hearn expressed her concern for the property being subdivided and developed in the future as there are 38 acres.

Karen Boisvert read a letter sent by the Vermont Department of Forest, Parks & Recreation.



State of Vermont
Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation
Lands Administration and Recreation Division
1 National Life Drive, Davis 2
Montpelier, VT 05620-3801
<http://fpr.vermont.gov>

Agency of Natural Resources

December 5, 2018

Town of Readsboro Selectboard
c/o Amber Holland, Town Clerk
Town Office
P.O. Box 187
Readsboro, VT 05350

RE: Proposed discontinuance of portions of Town Highway #34 (Bonne View Lane)

Dear Board Members,

On November 19, 2018, the Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation (FPR) received the petition to reclassify portions of Town Highway #34 (Bonne View Lane) in the Town of Readsboro. Per 19 V.S.A. §775, municipalities must notify the Commissioner of FPR when a petition to discontinue a highway is filed. It is the policy of FPR to encourage municipalities to keep highways as public rights-of-way for emergency, recreational, forestry, agricultural, and other purposes. These roads provide numerous benefits, including:

- Access to year-round and part-time residence and camps;
- Access to agricultural fields, forests, and sugaring operations;
- Access to state-owned parcels for recreational opportunities, for hunting and fishing, forest management and other forest products;
- Recreational access for activities like hiking, mountain biking, cross country skiing, horseback riding, and ATV and 4-wheel use

FPR's Lands Administration staff and District staff in our Rutland office have reviewed the petition and are not opposed to the proposed road discontinuance. FPR staff will not be participating in the public hearing and site visit occurring on December 8, 2018. We respectfully ask that this letter be recorded as part of the official proceedings on this matter. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rebecca Washburn".

Rebecca Washburn
Director, Lands Administration and Recreation Division



The Selectboard asked Mr. Van Guilder what his preference would be if the board did choose to declassify the road. Would he prefer to have the road reclassified as a Class IV or to discontinue it and give back to the land owners. Mr. Van Guilder stated that in the event the board decided to alter the roads classification he would prefer it be discontinued.

Motion to close hearing at 3:52 pm by Helyn Strom-Henriksen, seconded by Joseph Berard. So voted.