

SUMMARY OF ROAD VIEWING

Site visit TH#4 Howe Pond Road December 8, 2018

Call to order: 9am

Present: Helyn Strom-Henriksen, Joseph Berard and Norman Wilber. Ted Hopkins and James Damato were on the bottom route 100 side.

Two of the Selectboard members along with the DPW Superintendent, Norman Wilber viewed the section of TH#4 approximately 6/10 of a mile at the end of Howe Pond Road that the State of Vermont has determined not up to standards (NUTS). The three of them discussed the amount of work that the section of road in question would require to meet the state standards adopted by the Town and discussed that it is within the best interests of the Town to reclassify this section from a Class III to Class IV road.

Adjourned: 9:30am

Submitted by Norman Wilber, DPW Superintendent

Howe Pond Road Hearing December 8, 2018

Call to Order at 10:00am

Present: Helyn Strom-Henriksen, Joseph Berard, Norman Wilber, Karen Boisvert, James Damato, Ted Hopkins, Anna Bolognani

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 the road was not up to State Standards and to either bring it up to the standards or reclassify. A site visit was performed at 9am on December 8, 2018.

Anna Bolognani:

Anna came to ask questions early due to another commitment. She questioned where the road was going to be designated as Class IV. Norman explained it would remain a Class III down past her property and end after the next lot owned by Mr. Franconi.

James Damato:

Mr. Damato was concerned with who would be responsible for the bridge at the end of the road. He stated he did not want the responsibility of the bridge for liability/ insurance reasons. He was assured that the bridge would still be the responsibility of the town. He also asked how far in the .5 miles was from Vermont Route 100. He was told the Franconi property. Mr. Damato expressed concern for the future stating that the 10 acre block of property on the other side of the river might be hard to develop for his children if they choose to do so at a later date. He asked for a 30 day continuance for his lawyer to contact the Towns attorney.

Ted Hopkins:

Mr. Hopkins voiced concern over the timeline saying he would like for the hearing and site visit to be postponed until spring. He also asked if various entities were notified. Of his list of entities all have been notified with the exception of the power company and Mr. Damatos Mortgagor. Karen will look into the legalities/ necessity of this. Mr. Hopkins asked if land owners would be financially compensated and if the road budget was going to be reduced. He also thinks the town should contact the State about the bridge. Mr. Hopkins asked if the road had been surveyed and was told that it would be. . Mr. Hopkins presented the board with a packet laying out concerns for all roads under discussion. Specific to Howe Pond Road he states "Thoughts on Billy Goat Hill to route 100: Although not clearly stated on the legal notice I think the notice is legally flawed by not giving interested parties an idea of what the Selectboard wishes to do.

This is what the notice is for. No action should be taken at this location due to no game plan in place.”

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 #4 (Howe Pond Road)

Dear Board Members,

On November 19, 2018, the Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation (FPR) received the petition to reclassify portions of Town Highway #4 (Howe Pond Road) 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



Motion to close hearing at 10:20am by Helyn Strom-Henriksen, seconded by Joseph Berard. So voted.

