

**Town of Moretown
Office of the SELECTBOARD**

Notice of unapproved minutes of the September 29, 2008 Selectboard special meeting held for the purpose of meeting with Fountain Forestry personnel regarding their request to conduct road work on Hog Hollow Road, to continue discussion on health insurance options and for any other business that may come before the Board.

Members present: John Hoogenboom, Stephanie Venema, Paula Mastroberardino, Rae Washburn III

Guests: Andy Carlo of Fountain Forestry, Mike and Izzi Keiser, Kara Herlihy of The Valley Reporter, Cheryl Brown-clerk for the board

Andy Carlo said Fountain Forestry submitted a permit application to install 39 water bars on the class IV portion of Hog Hollow. He said the water bars would be about 20' wide, the width of the road which he believes is currently being traveled.

Paula questioned that the right-of-way of the road is actually 20'. Paula added that she does not want a situation like what happened last year on Lynch Hill where people could not access their property because of the size of the water bars.

Andy said the problem last year was the depth of the water bars, not the width and if these water bars exceed the legal right of way it would be for a water outlet that would be on his client property.

Rae asked Andy if he is making the water bars wider than the current trail.

Andy said the property on both sides of the right of way is owned by his client. Fountain wants the water bars to drain water from the town road, so at times an outlet might be installed outside of the legal right of way and onto his client's property to stop current and future erosion issues. Andy said if this road work is not done, and the town has no intent on doing the work, it is his opinion that road will remain in its current condition or worse, which is impassible because of mud trucks. His client wants access to his property and is willing to pay to have water bars installed on a public access.

John said we do not know where the road is for sure.

Andy said they want to work the road where it is currently being traveled and that location seems to be fine with his client. Andy said they will not be improving the road, just adding drainage measures to prevent erosion so his client can access his property. Fountain Forestry has no intention of maintaining the water bars once they are installed. They will however inspect the road yearly and his client will determine whether or not he wants to spend money to maintain a legal right of way.

Mike and Izzi Keiser said they have property on Lynch Hill that they could access from Herring Brook Road with their car before Fountain Forestry did their logging job.

Andy said Herring Brook is the same road that the State Police refused to patrol because they could not get their cruiser up the road. That was prior to our logging operation, which was performed in the winter on frozen ground and the town road was not left in a condition worse than it was prior to the beginning of the operation.

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Mike said Fountain dug drainage trenches in the road making it impassible. He said he came to the meeting when Fountain asked the town to use the road for their logging operation and Fountain said when the logging operation was done, the road would be fixed to its previous condition.

Andy said he knows there was a problem with the water bars, they were re-worked and heard no comments about them until now.

The Board told Mike that the highway crew has been very busy this summer due to the flooding and have not had to time to work class IV roads so town has hired a contractor to work Lynch Hill and Herring Brook.

Paula said she wants to be sure a legal trail does not become a two lane road and wonders if the Board should layout specifics for the road maintenance.

Andy said they do not want to increase the current width of the road.

Paula moved to sign the road maintenance application with the condition that Craig also approves the application and that the width of the road does not exceed 20' and the depth of the water bar does not exceed 12". John seconded.

After discussion about limiting the width of the water bars might hinder Fountain Forestry from building a water bar that would work effectively, Paula retracted her motion and John retracted his second.

Paula moved to sign the road maintenance application with the condition that Craig also approves the application, the depth of the water bars shall not exceed 12" and all work within the town right of way shall remain within 16'. John seconded. All were in favor.

Mike and Izzy Kaiser – presented the board with a letter regarding Lynch Hill/Herring Brook Road maintenance. John read the letter aloud.

The letter stated that because of logging done on Herring Brook by Fountain Forestry, they can no longer access their property from Herring Brook. They would like the road made passable by car again.

John said Lynch Hill and Herring Brook are class IV roads but because of this summers flood repair work, we have not maintained the roads to the extent that they have been in the past.

Stephanie said property owners on other class IV roads have requested the town to work on their roads as well. Stephanie said Mike Woodard is willing to install culverts on Herring Brook if the town supplies the culverts. Other landowners have made similar offers. She said she will certainly talk with Craig before approving any work, but she would like the Board's input tonight.

Rae said he would support the town supplying the culverts and Woodard installing them.

Paula said class IV roads were not designed to be lived on.

The Board thinks people are trying to access their camps.

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Rae moved to purchase culverts for Herring Brook Road that will be installed by Mike Woodard at no cost to the town. The culverts will be 2-15” culverts and 1-18” culvert. John seconded. All were in favor.

Stephanie will talk with Craig about the work tomorrow.

Stephanie moved to contract DuBois Construction to do road maintenance work on Lynch Hill Road and Herring Brook Road for a price not to exceed \$5,000. John seconded.

Discussion - Stephanie said she would like to hire DuBois Construction to do the grading this year, with Craig’s approval, because the road crew has their hands full with work that was put off while they repaired roads that were flooded. She said two other local contractors have already been used this year for other road jobs.

Vote – John, Stephanie and Paula in favor. Rae abstained from voting.

Health Insurance Options – John provided additional information on Cigna health insurance plans provided through the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT).

Discussion followed regarding plan coverage comparisons and plan cost comparisons, Flex Spending Accounts and maintenance costs, and who will be responsible for the yearly deductible – the town or the employee.

Paula moved, beginning January 1, 2009, the town will switch the employee health insurance to VLCT Cigna Open Access Plus - \$500 deductible RX Option A. 100% of the premium will be paid by the town for full-time employees. If an employee chooses to have dependents covered, then the town will pay 50% of the additional costs. John seconded.

Discussion followed about leaving the option open for the Selectboard to change their minds later if after the 2009 rates come through they are drastically different from the rates reviewed tonight. It was determined that the Board can change the health insurance plan later if they need to. Discussion followed whether the RX Option (prescription coverage) should be changed from the A plan to B or C. It was decided that because of additional premium costs versus coverage, Option A was the best choice.

Employees eligible for the health coverage will be invited to attend a special meeting on October 27th – 5 p.m., to review the new plan. John will get information on the Open Access Plus plan to pass along to the employees prior to the October 27th meeting.

Vote - All were in favor.

Rabid skunk – The Selectboard received a call from Dr. Johnson from the State Health Department, notifying them that a rabid skunk attacked a dog on Turner Road (off Route 100B near Middlesex).

The Board asked Kara if she could mention the incident in this week’s edition of The Valley Reporter.

Jack Wood – left information for John and Rae including Chronology of River’s quarry legal activity starting 1/7/05. John and Rae are unclear why the material was left for them.

Paula moved to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. Stephanie seconded. All were in favor.