

**Town of Moretown  
Office of the SELECTBOARD**

**Notes** of the May 24, 2010 Public Informational Forum held at the town hall to talk about proposed maintenance work on town trails; town garage project costs; and needs for a new highway truck.

**Work on town trails** – discussion included:

- Voters approved spending up to \$2,500 for the maintenance and upkeep of town trails. Use volunteer work - the \$2,500 would be for machinery and material costs.
- Unless stated otherwise in the land records, all town roads and trails are three rods (16 ½ yards) wide.
- Rae Washburn provided a map showing the three trails he thinks are priority to repair:
  - Herring Brook/Lynch Hill trail needs a culvert replaced and seeding done to stop erosion. Rae estimates this would cost around \$1,500.
  - Herring Brook/Moretown Mountain trail needs to be repaired for pedestrian traffic. Rae estimates this would cost around \$300.
  - Hog Hollow/Kelley Brook to Herring Brook/Ward Brook trail needs erosion repair. Rae estimates this would cost about \$500.
- There is a problem with mud trucks and ATV's traveling roads and trails in this area of Moretown, during mud season. The Sargent's provided photos showing several eroded areas.
- Temporarily shut down the Herring Brook to Lynch Hill trail to motorized vehicles except to landowners, until the soil is stable, or possibly as long as law will allow.
- Gate the main access to the trail system in mud season because signs do not work.
- The selectboard could appoint patrolmen to patrol town roads. Possibly recruit some of the young folks to enlist in trail maintenance stewardship.
- Over the years, Fountains Forestry clients have spent money to improve town roads and trails because of water quality concerns. All repairs were done with the approval of the town by a Road Maintenance Permit.
- It would be a waste of time and money if we know the offenders and do not do anything about them misusing town roads and trails.
- Limit motorized vehicle access all together except to landowners, by strategically blocking the trails that are being damaged.
- Should there be a trail/road policy in place before the trails are repaired so future misuse can be better enforced by law officials? If so, the policy should include all Moretown roads/trails, and describe specific uses for each road/trail. Then get our town constables trained and fine offenders.
- Use the \$2,500 to put up gates/blockades to block the trails as soon as possible.

Notes – 5/24/10 public forum

Decision –

Rae will work with landowners about where best to place gates and blockades, and put them up. Rae will meet with Jeff Langmaid of Fountains Forestry about what type of gate would best suit this application. All landowners would be given a key to any gate which would restrict access to their property.

Stephanie will check with Paul Gillies about the legalities/process for gating/blocking public accesses; and about how the town can get rid of abandoned vehicles left in the town right of way.

- More discussion followed about how to get the word out about blocking roads. Notices would be placed on all three bulletin boards around town, public hearings would be part of the process and written notice would be sent to all landowners whose property would be involved; notice on the list serve and town website; and notices would be published in the papers. The notice to close roads or trails would be per order of the selectboard – access would be at the discretion of the road commissioner. Any formal action would be via a motion of the selectboard which would take place at their June 7<sup>th</sup> regularly scheduled meeting. The agenda would include the selectboard's intent to pent or restrict access to certain town trails.

**Highway department truck needs** – discussion included:

- Rae is in favor of purchasing a one-ton truck with plow immediately. He doesn't think the larger dump truck is priority at this time, and that vote can wait until Town Meeting Day. Rae doesn't see the need to repair the 1998 truck so it is road legal (around \$15,000), according to estimates provided by Tenco and McLeods.
- Any articles being proposed at the Primary Election must be to the Town Clerk by 6/15/10.

**Total town garage project costs** – A memo from Amy Deutl states that she will prepare a final town garage project financial report after meeting with the selectboard member designated to oversee the project. Discussion was tables until the June 7<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.