

**MINUTES OF FRANKLIN SELECTBOARD
MONDAY, MAY 18, 2009 AT 7:00 P.M.
TOWN GARAGE**

PRESENT: Peter Kittell, Lynn Paradis, Jamie Boudreau, Harvey Bushey, Scott Choiniere, Sara Rainville, Howard Vansette, Gilbert Dewing, Kim Gates-Maynard, Burt Maynard, Hugh Gates

Scott called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PARK & RIDE:

Scott reviewed the map with everyone present as they did a walk around.

Harvey proposed that we do not pave all the way to the back ditch and have a green space there as well. He also suggested that we put the parking spaces down the middle of the lot instead of along the outside edge by Apple Tree Lane and the garage. Peter stated that with either plan for the parking spaces we would still be using the same amount of space. Harvey measured and marked 25' from the center of Apple Tree Lane and the Homestead's driveway so that everyone could have a visual of the proposed paved space as well the green space. The proposed area on the map is larger than the area that has been marked out tonight, Scott stated that we cut back on the size slightly.

Peter questioned what was planned for lighting. Scott stated now is the time to decide so conduit can be placed under ground, before we pave and plant the green space. Harvey stated that he has some fiberglass poles he will donate for the street lights and Lynn will check on the price of the lights, may run around \$176 a piece. Burt questioned if the poles would need to be painted and Harvey said "no".

Discussion was had on where the lights would be located. Peter did not think that there should be one facing the Homestead, maybe one facing the garage from the Homestead's direction. Peter thought that the lights should be placed in the green space instead of in parking area so that they would be less apt to be hit or damaged. Harvey/Burt suggested that there be a light at the entrance of the lot. Peter does not want the lights to be shown directly into people's eyes. Gilbert mentioned that maybe the light bulbs in the outside lights at the Homestead and Carriage House could also be replaced to give off a little more light as they are pretty dim. Peter would like to have power run from the garage because from the pole would mean digging up black top by the Carriage House/Apple Tree Lane. Harvey/Gilbert thought that 2 lights would be enough in conjunction with what is already around the area.

Kim questioned where the money to pay for the lighting was going to come from. Scott said that it was coming out of the \$41,250 grant for the Park & Ride.

Scott stated the grant application was for 20-30 parking spots. He mentioned that the space between the garage and the paved parking area would be grassed.

Lynn thought handicap parking spots would be best placed on the end so there is more space. Harvey agreed in part because of the ditch on the other side of Apple Tree Lane that would make it difficult for people to cross. Scott thought that we could pave a sidewalk strip while the pavers were here.

Harvey stated the grading of the lot before it is paved is very important in regards to water run off. The water should all be going towards the drain by Homestead Drive and the proposed entrance to the parking lot. Kim stated the lot has shifted since the new garage has been built and the sand pile has been moved. Peter noted Howard had diverted some water from the field from running in front of the garage and this should help with some of the extra run off during rain storms. Harvey would like to see the ground by the old garage slab be raised to send the water to the drain by Homestead Drive as well because it currently runs right in to the Franklin Telephone Company's garage space. The pavement in front of the old garage also needs to be torn out to get the grade for drainage.

Burt was concerned over drainage. Scott was told that because the current parking lot is so packed the water is already not sinking in, there should not be any added water run off. Harvey, however, thinks that if we currently have a run off issue, it will be twice as bad once paved.

Harvey/Burt are against planting maple trees in the green, they could potentially be a problem with the utility lines in the area. Also the trees may conflict with some Act 250 permits that the Franklin Homestead has in regards to landscaping.

Harvey said that most of the material that will be torn up can be re-used to level the area to the appropriate grade.

Kim questioned how the highway crew was going to access the garage area; Scott replied that they will have a driveway adjacent to the Park & Ride driveway.

Burt commented that he counted 13 cars in the parking area this morning.

Harvey noted that the school is having there parking lines done this summer so we may be able to coordinate to have them both done at the same time.

HOMESTEAD DRIVE:

Harvey felt that Homestead Drive should be worked on if there are any remaining grant funds left from the Park & Ride grant, since we will already be digging and paving in the area. He said that there is about 100-140' that needs work. He felt that the work should be shared by the 3 parties that share the road. Hugh disagreed with the Homestead or Franklin Telephone having to pay a large share and felt only the Town should pay. Kim felt that the damage to the road had been done by the town trucks being overloaded. She did state that Franklin Telephone Company may have a drain problem that could have caused some of the damage to the road, but could not be sure until the area has been dug out. Harvey stated that the agreement between the 3 parties was that they share the road maintenance and that each party would repair if they created more traffic and damage was done by that excess traffic. Harvey stated that by the building of Franklin Homestead and Carriage House, that this party had created more traffic and therefore are responsible for some of the damages, Hugh disagreed.

Scott stated there is no need to fix the road if the parties disagree on it, he thought that if there was money left over from the Park & Ride project that we could repair the road.

Kim questioned how long the road should sit before being paved. Harvey responded 3-4 months would be best for compaction as there is always settling problems when new fill is brought in then immediately paved over. It was stated it should also be rolled before being paved.

Gilbert said that the Homestead was in favor of fixing the road. Kim said that Franklin Telephone would discuss it.

Peter would like the road dug up as soon as possible. He suggested that we pave the road in the fall after the sidewalk project on Square Road is complete, that way the road would have plenty of time to be compacted by traffic. Harvey said that asphalt is about \$80 per ton right now. He said that we have to be careful when digging because the Telephone Company has 3 cables buried and some of the digging will have to be done by hand to ensure that we don't hit the lines. Franklin Telephone is not entirely sure of the cable depth, somewhere between 18"-36".

Harvey thinks that there may be a plugged or crushed drainage tile by the old fire pond behind the Fire Station. Hugh said that the fire pond was initially fed from the bottom.

Burt would like to see all parties work together and try to get along to do these projects instead of fighting.

Burt stated that drainage is very important as well as keeping the drains cleaned out. Harvey said that when the town drains get cleaned that they will also do the one by the Homestead. Howard thought that Mike from Swanton Village was supposed to be up a couple weeks ago to help clean ours but he had not seen him yet; Lynn said Mike had been busy in trainings.

Scott asked if there were anymore questions regarding the Park & Ride or the Homestead Drive paving/repair.

Burt asked where the access point was going to be for the town land, Peter said by the old garage foundation.

Meeting moved to Franklin Town Clerk's office @ 7:45 p.m.

PRESENT: Peter Kittell, Lynn Paradis, Jamie Boudreau, Harvey Bushey, Scott Choiniere, Sara Rainville, Phil Reighley

DOG/SHEEP ISSUE:

Mr. Reighley questioned who was at last board meeting; Jamie was only member not present at the May 11, 2009 meeting.

Mr. Reighley questioned how many sheep were dead when Jamie arrived at Mr. Finch's house? Jamie replied 11 small and 1 large, all the sheep were in a wheelbarrow when he got there. Jamie had a message on his machine around 3 p.m. and did not get there from work until around 5 p.m.

Mr. Reighley went over his account of the events on April 15th and 16th. He stated that he had called Greg and they have spoken. Mr. Reighley said that he was told by Mr. Finch that he found 3-4 dead sheep the morning of April 16th. Mr. Reighley said that his dog was 100% restrained and accounted for at the time of the first dead sheep being found, he stated that he has many witness' that his dog was home. The only time that his dog was loose was from 3:00 p.m. -3:30 p.m. on April 16th and that is when Mr. Finch shot the dog in his sheep field. That is when the other sheep were reported to have been found dead.

Mr. Reighley said that there is always two sides to every story and that no one has contacted him from the Town except for the bill he received for \$2,000 +/- to replace 12 sheep. He has many questions that still remain unanswered.

Harvey/Mr. Reighley both agreed that a wild animal or dog could have killed the sheep, but that they usually would have dragged the animal off. Jamie stated there was very little blood around, just looked like the small animals had been roughed up. Harvey/Jamie both agreed it would not have taken much to kill the little sheep as they were so small.

Mr. Reighley wanted to know why a vet was not called, the board had no answer, Lynn commented that they are very expensive and that could be why.

Peter thought that there had been dead sheep reported at this same farm before with a different owner years ago.

Mr. Reighley would like to know if there are any eye witness' to his dog killing the sheep or if he was just seen in the field with them. He doesn't feel that he should have to pay for the 4 sheep that were killed when his dog was home earlier in the morning. He also didn't feel that he should have to pay until he knows for sure how many sheep his dog really killed.

Several of the members commented that they heard this dog had bitten one of the Boudreau girls. Mr. Reighley said "No", that was my other dog.

Mr. Finch and Mr. Reighley will be put on the agenda for the June meeting for more discussion.

The board thanked Mr. Reighley and he exited the meeting.

Scott advised Sara to hold the check to Mr. Finch for the dead sheep until after the next board meeting.

Scott said that he had spoken to Lisa about the State Aid To Highway money. She advised him that the funding was going to be back up to 100% for the rest of the year according Steve Jeffrey at VLCT.

WEED HARVESTER:

Scott would like the board to give the okay for Kyle Lothian to run the weed harvester again this year. There had been some talk of having the highway men take over. Four members agreed and one opposed that Kyle run the weed harvester. Scott will notify Kyle of the decision. Lynn thought that Kyle, Howard and Ron seemed to work good together last year as far as repairs went and they didn't have any complaints.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:

Harvey is concerned the highway men will not have enough to keep them busy this summer. It was suggested that they could do more brush clearing along the roads and more roadside mowing.

Jamie also noted that there is a culvert by Lyle Richards that needs to be fixed or replaced.

Lynn said that she received a complaint that the Towle Neighborhood Road needed to be graded, Peter said that the guys had been working there and had to stop due to the in-climate weather, they would be getting back there to finish things up.

Harvey questioned where the old tractor was, Peter said it was behind the salt shed as he is waiting to hear back from someone that may want it.

The board discussed about holiday pay for the Memorial Day week. All members agreed on the following choices and that Peter will talk to them:

1-work three 10 hour days with 8 hours holiday

2- work four 8 hour days with 8 hours holiday

Scott noted that he is against 10 hour days. They will both have to work the same schedule.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- ZBA meeting Wednesday, May 20, 2009 at the Haston Library regarding Park & Ride. Scott and Peter plan to attend to answer any questions on behalf of the selectboard.

-Peter figured that there will be about \$9,000 left in Park & Ride grant funding after the parking lot is done for us to use on Homestead Drive. The board figured that it would be \$14,000 for asphalt, \$1,500 for bank run gravel and \$700 for an excavator to repair Homestead Drive. The board would like the 3 parties that have the road agreement to share equally in the cost of this project. The plan would be to dig up the problem portion of the road as soon as possible so it can have time to be compacted during the summer months then paved in the fall. There would be 4" of asphalt over the gravel areas and 1 ½ " over the existing asphalt. Harvey estimated we would need about 174 tons of asphalt. The board agreed that they may also need to use drainage tile, a sleeve for under the road as well a fabric.

Scott questioned Sara as to if the office had heard back from the attorneys office and she said "No", they had not yet; Lisa had called today and left another message for them to get back to us ASAP.

Sara will send Franklin Telephone and Franklin Homestead letters detailing the plan and cost of the project for Homestead Drive. She will also call George Godin and cancel the maple tree order.

-Lynn ordered hard hats, ear plugs and vests for the highway men; she has also ordered first aid kits for all equipment. They are not in as of tonight's meeting.

-Scott would like the boards approval to order a hand held radio for the highway department for use when they are out of their trucks. The radio will have only a few frequencies and we should be able to get for a couple hundred dollars. All members agreed to have Scott order the radio. If the highway men think they both need one then the board will discuss at that time.

Motion made by Scott/Lynn to adjourn. All members agreed, meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
May 19, 2009
Sara Rainville

NOTE: These minutes are not official until approved by the selectboard at their next regular meeting which is scheduled for June 8, 2009. These minutes were approved by the board on June 8, 2009.