

Road Task Force  
Stow, Maine  
6/2/2024 1:00pm  
Summary

Present: Belle Stafford, Carl Drew, Mike Cocci, Mike Tamaska, Steve Dupuis, Don Walden

Not Present: Matthew Hatch

Next meeting: Thursday, June 13, 7:00 - 8:00pm

Topics discussed:

Certain portions of the roads are currently unsafe

What we are dealing with is a long term emergency

We have many people in this town with fixed incomes who cannot carry a heavier tax burden.

We looked at the "summary" from the April 30th meeting

In order to plan ahead for the town, we will need to better understand the work being done on the roads this year. Such as:

- Timeline for the projects outlined for each road
- Specs for each job
- Order of priority (which might be obvious from the timeline)
- Contractors and contracts

Exactly how many miles of road do we have in Stow? We think:

14 miles of town road

14 miles of state road (113 & 113B)

Hauling gravel is expensive

We have a pile at the town garage that we can draw from in emergencies

Moving gravel twice is more expensive, but maybe worth it for smaller needs

For our bigger projects we can arrange for trucks to deliver their loads directly to the project

We discussed the Forest Service - and some of the history of White Mt. Nat'l Forest

Stow "owns" 8 square miles of WMNF

Should the forest service be rebuilding that bridge?

We think they would rebuild it, but we would be obligated to pay them back.

What would happen if a lumber truck collapsed the bridge?

We think we, as the town of Stow, would be liable.

Do we have leverage? Can we "post" a bridge or a road?

Stow plow guy is Tray Morrison - he plows 13 miles of road

What is our multi-year contract with him?

We get subsidized from the state to plow state roads, but not enough to pay the bill

It used to be enough in the past

We are now having to take out loans to pay the expenses of the town

Plow insurance does not cover the cost of damaged/downed mailboxes

Towns often protect themselves with a bond for large amounts of work being done.  
 TAR money - set aside \$20,000 a year drawing high interest  
 What kind of contract do we have with Freddie Wilson?  
 The importance of transparency

Portion of the current road budget for culverts & culvert repair: \$93,195

2,500	Stonehouse Road	1 culvert 20' x 18" plus gravel, labor etc
1,895	Chatham Center Road	2 culverts 40' x 18" culvert cost only
7,500	Meadow Road	1 culvert 40' x 18" including equipment, labor, gravel etc
900		Price of culvert
30,000	Union Hill Road	Replace 4 culverts @ 7,500 each
3,600		4 culverts @ 900
30,000		1 large culvert 3' diameter includes installation and price of culvert
8,400	Lake Road	1 culvert 40' x 18"
8,400	S. Chatham Road	1 culvert 40' x 18" digging equipment
<b>93,195</b>	<b>TOTAL BUDGETED for Culverts</b>	

We know that the budget has already been voted on for the current year.  
 We think we can help reduce the cost of some of the work that is slated for this year, if the Selectboard is open to discussion/suggestions.  
 Did the Selectboard use state estimates to price out the jobs?  
 We understand that it may be too late if contracts have been signed.

We decided on a Meeting Schedule: 2nd & 4th Thursday each month, 7:00 - 8:00pm  
 All are welcome. We would like to include others on the committee who express interest  
 It would be a good idea to regularly attend Selectboard meetings  
 Belle and Steve will attend the June 11th Selectboard meeting  
 Going forward Belle will take minutes for the road committee

For our next meeting:

- Each of us will bring a list of what we think is priority with regards to the roads.
- Bring a list of questions and next steps
- If everybody is there we may select a chair?