

**Road Management Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Date: July 26, 2022 Time: 6:30 p.m.  
Henniker Highway Garage**

**Committee Members Present:** Leo Aucoin, *Highway Superintendent*; Leon Parker, *Committee Chair*; Bill Marko, *Committee Vice Chair*; Mike Flecchia; Bill Marko; Danny Aucoin; Tia Hooper, *Selectboard Representative*.

**Guests:** Leigh Bosse, *Messenger Newspaper*; Scott Osgood, *Selectman and resident of Foster Hill Road*.

*Committee Chair Leon Parker called the meeting to order at 6:28 p.m.*

**Chairman Opening Remarks and Revision of Agenda:**

Chairman Leon Parker began by welcoming guests in attendance to the Road Management Committee Meeting. He then noted that the committee will be revising the posted agenda for the meeting to discuss the feasibility of installing a cross walk on Main Street first.

Chairman Leon Parker advised that since we have guests, if any of the guests wished to make a public comment they quickly could do so before the committee began its scheduled agenda.

**Public Comment:**

Scott Osgood, advised the committee that the reason he was at the committee meeting was to discuss the road he lived on, Foster Hill Road, and the potholes which are more dangerous than they should be. Scott Osgood advised that he was hoping that the issue could be looked into by the committee.

Highway Superintendent Aucoin advised that has already discussed and addressed the issue. We have already hired a contractor and we are now waiting for the contractor to come into town to begin the work.

Scott Osgood then offered photos of the Foster Hill Road to Superintendent Aucoin. Superintendent Aucoin declined and advised Mr. Osgood that he is aware of the conditions of his roads.

**Discussion Re: Crosswalk at the Community Park:**

Chairman Leon Parker asked members of the committee if they had a chance to read the staff report included as part of the Board of Selectmen packet in reference to the crosswalk request.

Superintendent Leo Aucoin provided an overview and background of the request received. Superintendent Aucoin advised that there are already two crosswalks within 200 feet of each other on Main Street. Another crosswalk would require another overhead light. Superintendent Aucoin advised that looking at the stats provided, he does not see a reason for an additional crosswalk. He reflected that the selectboard gave up a cross walk on Route 114 in front of College Convenience, a busier street, based upon the need for parking.

Chairman Leon Parker advised that he had just drove through Main Street and there was a crowd in the park tonight. Everyone is crossing the street everywhere without regard to where the crosswalks are located. He noted that that is the way it has been and that is the way it will continue to be.

Vice Chair Bill Marko advised that you cannot make a decision without data. The owners of the business provided anecdotal data, on how many people they serve and how much ice cream they serve. Without that you cannot base a major decision just on a notion that you need a safer crossing. You need the data and volume of the people to justify it because it is not just a cheap little fix. An engineering study would be needed, if we went forward there would be new curbing, and repaving. It is not a matter that should be taken lightly.

There is the issue of the parking. We have heard of it over and over again at planning board meetings, economic development meetings, that downtown when it is busy has a parking problem.

Leon Parker added that it does so year-round.

Superintendent Leo Aucoin advised that he believes the overnight parking ban will help the issue since college students will not be lining up and parking in front of their buildings. Superintendent Aucoin also advised that the Chief of Police will be hiring a new parking enforcement person as well.

Superintendent Aucoin then turned to the discussion he has had with the State of New Hampshire in reference to the crosswalk request. He advised that what he took away from his discussion with the State was, white lines do not limit your exposure of being hit by a car, all it does is they define liability.

He also advised that he would submit a request for a copy of the yield ratio report, which provides data on how many people yield to people in crosswalks? He reflected on a recent incident that he witnessed when a local resident he was speaking to was almost hit by a vehicle who did not yield. Superintendent Aucoin noted that observed the driver had their phone in their hand and advised that that there lies the problem, people are not driving anymore they are doing everything but. He stated that individuals can not anticipate that a car will yield just because you are in the white lines.

Superintendent Aucoin advised that the one thing the committee could do is urge the Highway Safety Committee to reduce the speed from 30 m.p.h. to 20 m.p.h. from Main Street to Shed Road.

Superintendent Aucoin also advised that he believed the Board had already passed a radius, from Prospect Street to Hall Ave, etc., where reduced speeds were to be implemented.

Bill Marko advised that he thought so to. He stated that he thought there was a list of streets that were approved with reduced speed limits.

Chairman Leon Parker agreed. He recalled that there was a Highway Safety Committee meeting where they made a recommendation to the Selectmen, which the Selectmen acted on that confirmed the speed limits on downtown streets.

Chairman Leon Parker made a motion that the Road Management Committee recommend to the Board of Selectmen that they do not approve the installation of another crosswalk, due to lack of data, and the loss of two parking spaces. Vice Chairman Bill Marko seconded the motion. All those were in favor, approved unanimously.

**VOTED: THE ROAD MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS TO THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN THAT THEY DO NOT APPROVE THE INSTALLATION OF ANOTHER CROSSWALK, DUE TO LACK OF DATA, AND THE LOSS OF TWO PARKING SPACES.**

Highway Superintendent Leo Aucoin made a motion that the Road Management Committee suggest to the Board of Selectman that they ask the Highway Safety Committee to look at reducing speed limits in the downtown area. Vice Chair Bill Marko seconded the motion. All those were in favor approved unanimously.

**VOTED: THE ROAD MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE SUGGESTS TO THE BOARD OF SELECTMAN THAT THEY ASK THE HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMITTEE TO LOOK AT REDUCING SPEEDS IN THE DOWNTOWN AREA.**

Superintendent Aucoin provided the committee with an overview and history of the current downtown parking configuration. He advised that when Main Street was overlayed, he had a painting striper come in to restripe the parking places. He noted that the striper recommended that the Town turn the lines slightly, to gain three (3) spaces. Superintendent Aucoin told the committee that he made the right decision by taking the recommendation.

Tia Hooper reminded the committee of the repair timelines. She advised that the Main Street construction was only an overlay and that will only last for a maximum of 10 years. When the time comes for reconstruction at that ten-year mark, that would be the time to reevaluate our downtown and do these projects and bundle the projects if needed. But she noted the time is not right now.

**Update from Highway Superintendent:**

Highway Superintendent Leo Aucoin provided an update of work being done for the committee.

**Main Street Drainage Project:**

Superintendent Aucoin advised that the only pipe that has not been pulled yet is from the NEC Administration Building over to Sonny's. They could not pull one piece in this area and will be instead installing 3' snap piping. The piping has been ordered and it is currently on back order. All the other pipes are in. Work for the grout is done. They just have that one section to do then headers can be placed, and grout can be poured. Then it will be done.

He also noted that it has been a successful operation. 350' pipe was pushed in 21 minutes from the Community Park to the NEC Administration Building.

**Paving and Other Culvert Replacements and Drainage Projects:**

Chairman Leon Parker inquired about the other drainage projects around town.

**Drainage Project at Flanders Road:** Superintendent Aucoin advised that the drainage problem at Flanders Road is being addressed. He is hoping that they will have it plumbed tomorrow, but it might not be done before Monday.

**Cleanup of Storm Damage and Ditching:** The recent thunderstorm did some damage and crews are still fixing roads and cleaning up ditches.

Culvert Replacements are planned on Foster Hill between Chelsea and Dodge Hill. Additional work will also be done on Dodge Hill.

Davison Road: Superintendent Aucoin advised that the paving company did come in to complete the paving on Davison Road. The contractor is currently finishing up paving projects contracted at schools before they start. They will return after that. He noted that they also will be paving Main Street from Ramsdell to Shed Road.

Echo Lane: Echo Lane drainage project is partially complete. The culverts are in, the project is now waiting on reclaiming and paving crews to come in.

Craney Hill: A culvert was installed on Craney Hill. There is an additional culvert that needs to be replaced as it has a 6" hole over the top and it is progressively getting worse.

Discussion ensued about the paving work completed on Davison Road. Superintendent Aucoin advised that they spent a lot of time working the seam.

Scott Osgood inquired about the tracks leaving from the paving sites. Superintendent Aucoin advised that they are called tack tracks. Between each layer of asphalt tack is laid and the heavier the tack in between the longer the road will last. Superintendent Aucoin then used Main Street by Shed Road where the pavement has holes between layers as an example of not using enough tack.

Scott Osgood then inquired why the highway department has not fixed it.

Superintendent Aucoin responded that the highway department is planning to fix it. It was originally completed by the highway department, and it is contracted out to be reclaimed and paved this year; in conjunction with the other work that has been contracted.

Old Hillsborough Road: Superintendent Aucoin advised that they will be starting on Old Hillsborough Road next week. Scott Osgood inquired how far they were going with the project. Superintendent Aucoin advised that the work will be done from Morrison Road to Bacon Road if they get that far.

Chairman Leon Parker asked the Highway Superintendent if the new truck was on the road yet. Superintendent Aucoin advised he picked it up on his day off, Friday afternoon and the decals still need to be put on the truck.

Liberty Hill Road Culvert Project:

Vice Chair Bill Marko inquired about the Liberty Hill culvert project.

Superintendent Leo Aucoin advised that the permit is still with the State of New Hampshire waiting for approval. He advised that he is working with Mike Vignale, the Town Engineer. Discussion ensued in reference to the permit delay.

Foster Hill Road:

Superintendent Aucoin provided an update on Foster Hill Road.

He advised that from Tanglewood to Blanchard Road, and then from Hoppy's driveway to just beyond Bobby French's driveway will be overlayed. Superintendent Aucoin advised that he is not sure if he has to go all the way to Scott's, since it isn't that bad once you get back from Bobby French's. In front of Bobby's is where the water pools. If you put patch in, when the road is depressed and it freezes, it pops back out. Right now, there is no asphalt left and there is nothing left to reclaim. You fill one hole, and another develops right next to it.

Superintendent Aucoin advised that he hates to tell people to go easy and stated, “*please know I am coming.*” The first thing people will see is a groove. Then crews will grind in a couple of slots, just cannot tell you when at this time.

Chairman Parker advised that when we tackle Foster Hill that will all be redone.

Superintendent Aucoin agreed and advised that it will go all the way up from the highway and go right up over the top of the hill.

Superintendent Aucoin advised that he is now looking at how to extend culverts for a better outcome on the steep side of the hill. He then explained what he would like to do for drainage on the hill. He also noted that the steel pipes all rotted out and the road was last paved in the late 1980’s.

Scott Osgood asked the Superintendent if he was in the Tanglewood Area. Scott advised that the resident on the corner of Old Mill Pond put a bunch of gravel into the ditch line. He then asked what the Superintendent was doing about it.

Superintendent Aucoin advised that he did stop and talk to him and the resident thought he was helping by getting the leaves out. He didn’t hurt it or achieve anything.

Scott Osgood advised that he still hasn’t gotten everything and it is not cleaned up. The left side is not done and that stone had been put in the right away.

Superintendent Aucoin advised that he will stop by again, but he believes it’s been taken care of. Superintendent Aucoin advised that what the resident does on his own property or material stored in his driveway he does not care about. Discussion then ensued.

Chairman Leon Parker returned to a discussion about what to do in order to review the road conditions and classifications since last year.

Tia Hooper proposed that for homework everyone should drive the roads and be prepared to reclassify roads at the next meeting.

There was consensus amongst the committee members. Committee members then split up the town into quadrants based on where they reside.

**ACTION ITEM: Committee Members are to drive the roads and evaluate the current conditions of their roads within their quadrants before the next meeting.**

Flanders Road: Superintendent Aucoin advised that Chip Seal for Flanders Road is now pushed out to August 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Prospect Street: Superintendent Aucoin advised that Prospect Street will be repaved on the lower section. There was a \$10K savings on Davison Road.

#### **Review and Approval of Minutes:**

Bill Marko made motion to approve the March 22, 2022, Road Management Committee Meeting Minutes, as presented. Danny Aucoin seconded the motion, all were in favor, approved unanimously.

**Voted to approve the Road Management Committee Meeting Minutes from March 22, 2022, as presented.**

April small correction was noted and modification to the minutes were made.

Bill Marko made a motion to approve the April 26, 2022, Road Management Committee Meeting Minutes. Danny Aucoin seconded the motion, all were in favor, approved unanimously.

**Voted to approve the Road Management Committee Meeting Minutes from April 26, 2022.**

Tia Hooper made a motion to adjourn. Mike Flecchia seconded the motion. All were in favor, approved unanimously.

*Meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.*