

**Town of Henniker
Road Management Committee
November 9, 2021
Meeting Minutes**

Members in Attendance: Leo Aucoin, Highway Superintendent; Leon Parker, Chair; Bill Marko; Michael Flecchia; Tia Hooper **Members Excused:** Danny Aucoin

Old Hillsborough Road Construction Update:

Highway Superintendent Leo Aucoin provided the committee with an update on Old Hillsborough Road Construction.

Old Hillsborough Road construction has wrapped up for the season. The Highway Department has installed 4,100 feet of underdrain, 2 cross culverts, 2 basins, and 1 headwall.

A shim/overlay has also been placed on the worst sections of the road to get through the winter, until construction can begin again in the spring. It was noted that it has made a huge difference between the McComish Farm going up the hill towards the town line.

The Highway Superintendent also advised the committee that there is a lot of water that travels under the roadway. The Highway Department has also laid out 800 + or more yards of crushed stone over the asphalt and it was reclaimed in to stiffen up the top surface. A 2.5" winter binder was applied. If construction crews did not put the stone into the roadway the road would have sunk further.

In one section, by the Nazer Farm, they have had to add gravel to increase drainage. They have also worked to shoulder the roadway with gravel and have added hard pack to driveways.

Morrison Road:

The Highway Superintendent advised that Morrison Road is scheduled to be graded. Water was coming down around the corner and was traveling back down the hill on Gould Road, which caused the corner to wash out. Crews have dug out the ditch to increase waterflow and to get the water off the road surface.

Roadways after heavy rainfall:

The Highway Superintendent noted that he and his wife left Sunday morning and drove every road in Henniker between 9:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. to survey and take notes on damage and work that needed to be done. During the drive they noticed that Western Ave was once again having issues with beavers. The Highway Superintendent immediately responded with the excavator to pull the grate at the condos.

Discussion ensued and it was noted that surveying after storms makes the department more productive and saves the town money by getting the crew moving first thing in the morning.

Knotweed Issues:

Discussion regarding the invasive species knotweed ensued amongst the committee. It was noted by the Highway Superintendent that Knotweed should not be mowed, or it will spread.

In order to get rid of or limit spread, the knotweed must be sprayed in the fall right after it flowers. It should be done for three years consecutively looking for any new little shoots.

Areas identified in the Town of Henniker with the invasive species are the following

- Liberty Hill,
- The boat landing,
- Colby
- Rush Road
- Highland Drive

Mount Hunger Road Project:

On Mount Hunger just about Forester's Christmas Tree Farm, the ditch line is difficult to maintain and water sits on the roads surface since there is no place for the water to go. Drilling and blasting has been scheduled so that ledge can be removed, especially around the corner, which plows are hitting during the winter season. This will also allow for additional visibility and for two vehicles to safely pass each other. In the current condition, two vehicles side by side is difficult.

2022 Possible Road Projects and Budget Discussion:

- Addition of Echo Lane to the road project list
- Finishing Old Hillsborough Road
- Foster Hill
 - Drainage is needed from Triple L and in front of the Fiber Studio.
- Reclaim Baker Road, like the way Morse Road was done.

Equipment Updates:

Backhoe:

The Highway Superintendent advised that the backhoe came back from Old Hillsborough Road low on brake fluid. Once brake fluid was added it goes low again. Brake replacement in the equipment was needed. However, what was to be \$5K job, turned into a \$10K job since the last time it was repaired the shoes were never replaced. They have now complexly worn and spoiled the housing.

The rest of the equipment repairs are being conducted as scheduled.

New Truck Update:

The highway superintendent advised that the new truck that was ordered this spring is still not ready, and they are not saying when the vehicle will be delivered. However, it is anticipated that it will not be delivered until next spring.

Discussion ensued in reference to supply chain issues and the status of other community vehicles. During the discussion a racial slur was used by the chair. Conversation shifted back to this upcoming years equipment needs and potential impact on operations.

The Highway Superintendent noted that he did also order a plow this summer, the plow also has still not been received.

Culvert Prices are now up 100% over last year

If the highway department ordered a 1-ton pickup today, the anticipated delivery would not be until next July.

Salt/Winter Prep Update:

- 3 loads of salt have been purchased.
- The price of salt went up 46% since last year.

Motion to approve the October 12, 2021, Meeting Minutes:

Motion made by Leon Parker to approve the October 12, 2021 meeting minutes. Seconded by Leo, all were in favor, approved unanimously. Note: Tia Hooper and Michael Flecchia abstained from voting.

Voted to approve the October 12, 2021, Meeting Minutes

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.