

TOWN OF ORFORD

Board of Selectmen

Minutes of the Archertown Road Hill Project Public Hearing

July 20, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Adams, Kevin Follensbee, Chase Kling

OTHERS PRESENT: Esther Dobbins-Marsh, Erin Darrow-Engineer

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm

Engineers Report: Darrow presented her project overview and drawing of the plan as a handout. The overview outlined the purpose, approach, schedule and estimated costs of the project. The design is intended to maintain the existing alignment of the road as much as practicable and to minimize elevation changes. This is the help minimize costs and keep disturbance within the town's right of way as much as possible.

The project schedule will start with ditching and culvert replacement in mid/late August, early September. Reclaiming the road will begin mid-September, followed by the addition of gravel and geogrid mid to late September. Paving is planned for late September, with site work being finished early October. Costs for the project are projected be at \$400,000

The tree removal will help keep the ice from accumulating in the winter months, and ditching along the road will benefit the road greatly. The borings were completed, but because the report was received today, Darrow hadn't had time to review the data in detail. The boring results will provide information on the material that's below the surface, and is used to finalize the plan design.

Questions: Many in attendance were concerned with ditching and culvert replacements and the impact on private property. Darrow said the culverts are not being relocated, and by enlarging some of the culverts it will actually help transport the water more efficiently, which prevents clogging of the culverts. When the culverts are clogged, water still finds a way to flow and that results flooding around the culvert and creates damage to the road. Bonnie McCouch said she's concerned that better water flow will cause issues on her property. She'd like to have Darrow review her concerns prior to the work starting. McCouch also mentioned her well and asked what impact the project will have on that. Darrow said there should be no impact as the project will not require any blasting. Darrow said she'll look at the drainage at the High Bridge road area.

Why did the Town need new borings for this project – didn't we have them done previously? Darrow said the prior borings provided some information, but she required more than were previously done. Will the cost of the new borings result in a shortage of funds for other parts of the project? The cost of the latest borings will be between \$10,000 and \$11,000. Darrow is projecting saving in other areas of the project, so the cost of the borings won't impact the overall budget.

Are we using toxic products for this project? Darrow said construction materials are essentially considered toxic, but the State of NH allows for certain materials to be used when it pertains to public safety (example: paving materials and calcium chloride).

When will paving take place on the flat section of Archertown Road? Darrow said this will be phase 2 of the project. If approved by the voters at the March 2024 annual meeting, the paving of the flat will take place sometime in 2024.

The Public Hearing closed at 7:55 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Esther Dobbins-Marsh