

Town of Stow
Road Meeting
April 30, 2024 6 pm

Select board: Jim Wilfong, Carl Lindblade
Nancy Boros, Treasurer

Resident – we don't have enough money to complete all the roads, nor can we work on one road at a time. Resident suggested doing worst part of each road first.

Resident – the proposed project lists about 8 different roads. We need a road construction professional to come to town and make an estimate of the cost to fix all the roads. The taxpayers need to know the potential cost of all the roadwork. The residents need a professional's estimate of the road work. The \$7 million estimate was based on analysis created by R. Flint and J. Wilfong, the resident suggested a professional road contractor to make the estimate.

Resident – whether the Select board make the estimate or a road contractor, the town's budget is not nearly enough. The discussion should be about how much tax burden the residents want to take on.

Resident – suggested getting a long term bond

Resident – asked if the town requested FEMA money (the town has) and if the USFS is contributing to the Ezra Heald Bridge project.

Resident – The Meadow Road Bridge needs work. J. Wilfong stated that the town owns the road but the State of Me owns and maintains the bridge on Meadow Rd

Resident – wants to borrow the money to fix the roads

Resident – feels the \$200k spent each year is not effective

R. Flint – the town has made progress replacing culverts etc., but is a small amount of money relative to what needs to be done

Resident – asked what it costs per foot to maintain a dirt road. J Wilfong stated it costs \$50 per foot to pave a road. You cannot pave over poor quality roads. Maintenance of paved roads is less than maintaining a dirt road. However, the cost to build the paved road is significant.

Resident – Is the town responsible for an accident on poor road? J.Wilfong stated the State has mandates on the monetary responsibility.

Resident – If we build the roads up by 18", why do we need to ditch the roads to the depth they are being ditched.

Resident – On Meadow Road, the road is below elevation. The road floods despite the new culverts because it is below elevation. J.Wilfong stated more hot top will be put on Meadow Road. Resident stated the cold patch does not adhere as well. Suggested that Meadow Road should be paved over entirely. J.Wilfong stated that the State intends to replace the Meadow Rd Bridge in 3-5 years.

Resident – Suggested the Town have a road committee.

Resident – in other towns the Select Board hires professionals to plan the roadwork

Resident – rather than use State estimates, use historical data from invoices to calculate costs, or look into the Forest Service estimates

Resident – would like a road committee where more residents have a say

Resident – why is the minimum threshold for a project \$50,000? Resident stated that they would like to see more than one contractor complete the work. The overall budget is \$200k which exceeds \$50k.

Resident – would like more bids and more contractors working on the projects to get competitive bids and signed contracts.

Residents – does not believe the expenditure of CaCl is worthwhile.

Resident – The CaCl is effective and improves the ability to drive on it and reduces the potholes.

Resident – would like a road committee with a scheduled set of meetings and specific tasks

Resident – hire a road commissioner to organize the work. Another resident stated that they were not always effective. Resident suggested hiring an engineer to supervise the contractors work.

Resident – wants Union Hill, where this a density of houses, be worked on before putting in more culverts

Fire Department Rep – we are supposed to respond to an incident within 15 minutes, it is hard to accomplish that with the road conditions.

Resident – asked that several projects be put together for bidding

J. Wilfong – hire an engineer to determine what the cost will be to fix all the roads and determine what the amount of the bond required.

Resident – the Task Force should have some data to present at the next town meeting in March 2025.

J. Wilfong asked how many people should be on the road committee. – Residents suggest 5 people, 4 residents and J.Wilfong. Others suggested 5 residents only, who then refer to the 3 selectman. Create an ad hoc road commission that reports to the Select board.

C. Lindblade – suggested a road task force be formed, and tasked with coming up with 3 options as how to address the road issues. The task force should have a deadline to present the 3 options to address the issues. They should have contract costs for the 3 options suggested. Determine what needs to be done, what are the options to address the issues, and how to fund the project. (E.g. get a bond, increase the annual budget etc.).

It was decided that a Road Task Force with 5 road members would be formed to address these issues. No other actions will be taken at this time.

Adjourned 8:10 pm

