

Town of Old Lyme
Snow Plowing Committee
Thursday January 5, 2011; 7:30 pm

Bonnie Reemsnyder welcomed everyone, stated the purpose of this committee and described the history of the town plowing responsibilities.

The committee is to review the current policy of snow plowing and to assess if to (1) continue as is being done, or (2) to recommend to the town the roads that should be plowed based on specify criteria. Some initial criteria mentioned (but not decided upon) were:

- Historical precedence
- Identify specific criteria for private roads to be plowed and apply these criteria to all private roads. This might include road to be paved, a turnaround/cul-de-sac at the end of the road for the snow plow, no speed bumps, no parking on these streets.

The committee is also to consider any potential legal implications, if any, of ceasing to plow private roads, as well as the legal implications, if any, of providing town plowing to private roads.

Introduction of Members:

Each member introduced themselves and stated their street address. Voting committee members are:

Bob Vanesse, Miami Beach Association
Paul Puddington, Chestnut Hills
David Flagge, Shore Road
Cindy Hautaniemi, Deer Ridge
Paul Yellen, Old Lyme Shores
Rich Kingston, Old Colony Beach Association
Chris Kerr, Dunns Lane (Old Lyme Board of Finance)
Beth Sullivan, Maywood Drive

Also on the committee, as ex-officio members are:

Bonnie Reemsnyder, First Selectwoman Old Lyme
Ed Adanti, Old Lyme Public Works Superintendent

Election

Motion made by Rich Kingston, seconded by Beth Sullivan, and passed unanimously to elect Paul Yellen as Committee Chair.

Motion made by Beth Sullivan, seconded by Cindy Hautaniemi, and passed unanimously to elect David Flagge as Committee Vice-Chair.

Motion made by David Flagge, seconded by Cindy Hautaniemi, and passed unanimously to elect Beth Sullivan as Committee Secretary.

Committee Discussion

The town currently plows the snow on all town roads, and some of the beach community roads. Although, these beach community roads are private, the town has plowed them as a courtesy. Ed Amanti stated that these are the only private roads the town currently plows. Throughout discussion, other private roads were discussed that were plowed in the past, and then the town stopped plowing them – Deer Ridge, and Tisbury.

Paul Puddington stated that all roads should be treated equally as we all pay the same taxes (tax rate.) This statement was agreed upon by Beth Sullivan.

Reference was made to a recent decision in Plainfield Ct, to continue to plow streets due to historical precedence that was settled by the town, out of court. The committee should read about this situation and the decision.

Action Items

David Flagge to follow up with Kim Groves @ Town Hall for a list of all private roads.

Bonnie to provide town maps to committee members.

Bonnie to provide the town plowing budget (past 3 years if possible)

Next Meeting

Wednesday January 11, 2011 @ 7:30 pm.

Public Comment

Mary Jo Nosal thanked the committee members for their participation. She stressed that we are one town and need to keep this in mind.

Monique Heller (Long Acre Road) stated that private associations carry insurance, and this should be kept in mind when thinking of potential legal implications of town employees on private roads. She stated that Long Acre is private and hires a contractor to snow plow, but due to the high volume of snow last year, the town did come down and helped out. She also asked that the committee consider the occupants on the private roads and their responsibilities. For example, her husband is a doctor and during snow storms may need to get out quickly.

Barry Harrison (White Sand Beach) also thanked the committee members. He stated that there were different opinions expressed during discussions at the meeting, and that differing opinions were healthy. He re-iterated Paul's comment regarding all paying taxes, and went on to say that we all pay into the system; this is about all of us. He asked the committee to start with a premise that as we all pay, we should all receive the same services; then reason back as to why some roads may need to be eliminated from this due to specific criteria.

Peter Bialobrzski (White Sand Beach) stated he is willing to help the committee if needed. He also asked the committee to remember that the WSB areas is unique in that the private roads lead to a town beach. There is an easement on these private roads to allow town people access to the beach.

Motion made by David Flagge, seconded by Rich Kingston, and passed unanimously to adjourn at 8:30.

Respectfully submitted

Beth Sullivan