

Town of Old Lyme
Special Meeting: Snow Plowing Committee
Wednesday January 18, 2011; 7:30 pm

Present: Ed Adanti, David Flagge, Cindy Hautaniemi, Rich Kingston, Paul Puddingdon, Bonnie Reemsnyder, Beth Sullivan, Bob Vanesse, Paul Yellen,

Regrets: Chris Kerr

Meeting called to order at 7:30 by Paul Yellen.

Additions/Changes to the agenda

None

Approval of minutes

Motion made by Cindy Hautaniemi, seconded by David Flagge, and passed unanimously to accept the minutes as submitted.

Public Comment:

Barry Harrison submitted a document of his opinion on the OL Snow Plowing for committee consideration. Each member received a copy to review prior to the next meeting.

Business:

Beth to save the minutes in .doc not docx if possible so all can open them.

Paul Yellen stated that we as a committee need to get past the 'beach vs. town' attitude. Each of us has a vested interest in what is best in the town for all the citizens. He reminded the members of the committee charge, and the status of these:

- Identification of any private roads to be included in the study based on minimum road standards developed (done)
- Determining the total number of miles included in the study (done)
- Determining with the best available information the estimated cost of the plowing and/or other recommendations. (in progress)
- Assessing the capability of the Town to execute the committee's recommendations.
- Also to consider the legal implications, if any, of ceasing plowing of private roads which may have been done in the past, as well as the legal implications of providing municipal maintenance and services to private roads. (committee to outline the options and then have town legal counsel at a meeting for this input)

Ed Adanti and David Flagge did not ride around and view the private roads for decision to have them plowed by the town or not. All agreed that they do not have the authority to do this.

Paul Puddingdon offered that the committee is making this harder than it is: In his opinion, (1) the option to only plow the town roads is not fair to the beach community, (2) the options to plow all town and all private roads is not fair either; as in his opinion the people that bought homes on private roads knew that the town would not plow these roads, (3) maybe the town should consider a rebate to private associations/roads to assist with the plowing, and (4) the option to continue plowing the town roads and the beach communities is the way to proceed as this has been the practice for many years, and precedence should set the standard. Or (4a) the town could hire a private contractor to plow in the beach communities and this would lessen the town's liability, or (4b) the town can pay the beach for supplemental services.

Cindy Hautaniemi disagreed that the past practice is the way to continue. She stated that this practice was not correct, so why should the town continue a practice that was not correct?

Again, other private roads that were once plowed by the town, but then stopped were discussed (e.g., Deer Ridge, Thomas Waite). It is thought that the town Selectman may not have been aware of this, but was aware that the beaches were private and the town was continuing to plow them.

Ed Adanti presented a cost estimate from one contractor for the plowing of the beach communities: \$150/hour and it is estimated that each beach community may take between 5-7 hours to plow based on a 4 inch storm or less. (this would include opening the roads up at the beginning of a storm, the widening of the roads during the storm and later, and the storm clean-up at the end of the storm.) Plowing and sanding would begin when 2 inches of snow has fallen. [Committee reminder that the beach communities have ~12 miles of private roads, and the private roads in town total ~10 miles.]

Paul Yellens will research the legal case in Plainfield CT. Are there any other similar cases? One committee member thought there may be one ongoing in East Lyme?

Paul Yellens added another option to the “Draft Table of Committee Options” - that of the town continuing to plow the roads as currently doing, but adding sanding and salting to the beach community roads. This led to a discussion that if the town does plow private roads, would the standard for plowing of these roads be any different than the standard for plowing of town roads? Would the plowing of all roads be to the same plowing standards? A motion “All roads (town and private) would be plowed to the same standard, e.g., plowing, sanding and salting” was made by Beth Sullivan, seconded by Bob Vanesse, and further discussed. Voting 5 yes, 1 no. Rich Kingston stated that he voted against this as he thinks this will be cost prohibitive and then the beach communities will lose the town plowing that they are receiving now. The town would plow all roads to the same standard, which would include plowing, sanding and salting.

Ed Adanti verified that the town would continue to provide sand/salt for local private contractors plowing the private roads of Old Lyme.

The “Draft Committee Standards” for identification of private roads to be plowed by the town were discussed for any additional considerations. None were identified.

Draft Committee Road Standards for private roads to be plowed by town:

- Paved (not dirt or gravel)
- Need turn around at end for truck
- No speed bumps
- Minimum width – narrowest town road to be the standard (Ben Franklin?)
- Edges of road trimmed of brush / no overhanging of brush
- No on-street parking
- No unreasonable grade, sharp turn, or deep ditches on edge of road but ok if guard rail between road and ditch

If these standards were applied to all private roads, the committee estimates that ~80% of the private roads would meet these standards.

Beth Sullivan suggested that if the town were to proceed with the option of applying minimum standards to private roads for consideration of town plowing, each private association/road would then be required to ‘apply’ to the town for town plowing. The town would then examine the road(s) and make a decision. In this way the town would not automatically begin plowing private roads, as some private associations may want not want to apply for the town to plow their road(s). This was agreed upon by the committee members.

Table of Draft Committee Options were discussed to see if all options remain. The committee members decided to remove Options 4 and 5 as they were not options to be further pursued: (Option 4: town would plow all roads, town and private, and Option 5: town plows town roads only – no private roads.)

Remaining Draft Options were further discussed as below:

	Option	Legal Implication	Financial Implication	Miscellaneous
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town plows town roads • Town plows beach communities 	Precedence set for plowing in past?	Slight ↑ to budget as all roads to be plowed to consistent plowing standards.	Some private road residents are not happy about not being plowed.
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town plows town roads • Town plows beach communities • Town plows private roads per cmte standards * 		Would ↑ budget – time and materials. Estimate ~80% of private roads (current beach + private per road standards)	
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town plows town roads • Town plows private roads per cmte standards 		Would ↑ budget Estimate ~75% all private roads would meet draft road standards	This might change some of the beach roads currently being plowed (e.g., would not meet draft road standards of needed turn around? Or because of speed bump?)

Need to consider town liability on private roads?

Town would need to consider expanding the work force and equipment or hiring temporary contractors to assist with the additional plowing in options 2 and 3.

*time and cost is would increase exponentially due to town employees overtime, but may not if hire sub-contractors.

Ed Adanti to gather the town plowing budget for 2008 – 2011.

Beth Sullivan added that even if an option is chosen or options are ranked to be presented to the Board of Selectmen, there are a few exceptions that will need to be considered separately. Specifically Cedar Hollow and White Sand Beach Road

Public Comment

Tom Murphy (Thomas Waite Rd.) questioned if the look back at the town’s plowing budget could be to when some of the other private roads were being plowed by the town (those that are no longer being plowed by the town.)

Barry Harrison (White Sand Beach) asked the committee to be prepared to answer/clarify a private road vs. a driveway. Bonnie Reemsnyder clarified that the private roads are per land use. There is a specific list of private roads. A road must be on the list to be considered a private road.

Next meeting: Wednesday January 125 2012 @ 7:30 pm in Town Hall (upstairs.)

Motion made by Rich Kingston, seconded by Paul Puddingdon and passed unanimously to adjourn at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Sullivan