

Town of Monkton
Selectboard Special Meeting
Meeting held via Zoom
November 16, 2020 7:00 pm.
(Approved 11/23/20)

The Selectboard of the Town of Monkton held a hearing on Monday November 16, 2020 at approximately 7:00 to conduct a hearing on the question of reclassification of Pond Road between Rotax Road and Davis Road.

S. Pilcher called the hearing to order at 7:00pm.

Members Present: Stephen Pilcher, Marikate Kelley, Bill Martin, John McNerney

Members Absent: Paul Low

Others Present: Patrick Miner, Jamie Martell, Ken Wheeling, Betsy Brown (Recording Secretary)

The Selectboard opened up for testimony for the reclassification of Pond Road from Rotax north to Davis Road.

S. Pilcher noted the first piece of evidence (copies of which have been sent to all SB members) is a letter from Ken Wheeling (see attached).

P. Miner stated that he owns land with a curb cut on Pond Road. His main points of concern are what the maintenance of the road going forward if the road class gets downgraded and what the weight limitations for vehicles will be on the new bridge. He would also like to see actual pricing of the 2 different options (class III bridge) or a lesser "farm type" bridge. Wants to make sure money would actually be saved by downgrading the road.

K. Wheeling called in and wanted to emphasize the snow plowing deal that was made as outlined in the letter he submitted.

P. Minor also stated that he would also like to talk about the possibility of extending the hearing if need be to get more accurate pricing quotes from engineers etc.

M. Kelley asked about continuing the hearing with the purpose of getting cost information from Ben Hollwedel (Road Foreman). M. Kelley also asked about closing the hearing and then re-warning a new one at a later date. M. Kelley is leaning toward closing the hearing due to the amount of time it will take to get more detailed numbers. A new hearing can be warned at a later date when the estimates are in. S. Pilcher noted that his preference is to close the hearing and go from there.

S. Pilcher closed the hearing at 7:13pm.

A vote will be taken on this issue at the next Selectboard meeting on Monday, November 23, 2020.

Respectfully Submitted,

Betsy Brown
Recording Secretary

Attached: K. Wheeling letter to Select Board

P. O. Box 38
North Ferrisburgh, VT 05473
November 1, 2020

The Selectboard
Town of Monkton
P. O. Box 12
Monkton, VT 05469

Dear Members of the Selectboard:

In view of your recent letter regarding the reclassification of Town Road #15 (Pond Road), I believe the time has come to set down the history of that portion of the road that affects me.

In 1972, before I built the residence I am in, I checked with the Road Commissioner, Earl Hansen, regarding the status of the road, believing it to a Class 3 Road. He verified that this was so. Furthermore, he told me that I could put my driveway where I wished; the town would take care of the road.

Consequently, I designed the house, with front door facing in the north direction, the driveway approaching the house across the land from the north, where the garden is now. The concrete was poured according to that design, on March 17, 1975. The Saturday following, Mr. Hansen, accompanied by Mr. John Provoncha, one of the Selectmen, came to see me as I was working on the property.

The gist of the conversation concerned the driveway location. The "town" was faced with putting it the road at a great expense. It was then that Mr. Hansen and Mr. Provoncha made me a deal. If I would make a turn-around three widths of a car length for the town trucks, they would keep the snow plow down and turn around there. I assented; built the turn around and the town trucks honored this agreement.

Mr. Wayne Preston, successor to Mr. Hansen, continued to honor this understanding. When Mr. Logan Lecompte took over, the understanding was more or less continued, with infrequent lapses. Mr. Hollwedel continued to plow me out, but he didn't come all the way up the drive, making it somewhat difficult to get out.

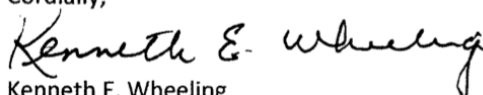
The Selectmen now wish to change the classification of the town road. IF THE TOWN'S OBLIGATION TO PLOW OUT TOWN ROAD #15 IS NO LONGER IN FORCE, THEN I AM OPPOSED TO THE CHANGE. If, however, the accommodation with the town CONTINUES to be honored, I not opposed.

Incidentally, the culvert has need replacing long before this. I discussed this with Wayne and Logan several times. Nothing came of it.

I believe that I am the only one currently impacted by the decision. Ian's driveway is but few yards from the intersection of Rotax Road and Pond Road. There is now a through-road connect Pond Road with Davis Road.

I request the agreement entered into in 1975 be formally recognized in writing.

Wishing you well. I am

Cordially,

Kenneth E. Wheeling
1421 Pond Road