

**Wentworth Select Board
Meeting Minutes
August 10, 2021**

Those present: Arnold Scheller, Jordan King, Chief Trott, Jim Folsom, Paul Davis, Sr., Mike Leviss, Omer Ahern, Dave Clark and Linda Franz.

Called to Order: Arnie Scheller called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm.

The following documents were signed: Payroll and vendor checks; Meeting minutes for July 27, 2021; Intents to cut for Arden Forest, Kenneson, Scheller Farm; Septic approval for Upson; Abatement for Kewley.

A.Scheller reported that John Kennedy of the SAU#48 will be applying for a grant for approximately \$90K to have the Wentworth Elementary School's parking lot paved. This is in part necessary to ensure that voters are able to get to the polls without having to navigate through deep mud. As it is a federal grant, it may not get done in the 2021 construction season, but will try their best.

A.Scheller also reported that there are no cases of Covid-19 in Wentworth, Warren, Orford and Rumney. Therefore, the School Board will not be requiring masks for students when they return to class in September. Also, the NH House passed a bill to make CRT (Critical Race Theory) illegal, and will not be taught in our schools.

A.Scheller received a complaint that a well pump wire was severed when the town was trimming and mowing along the roadsides. It was determined that the wire was illegally installed, and it was recommended that the resident hire an electrician to repair.

A.Scheller spoke of the Hazard Mitigation Project for Wentworth sponsored by Homeland Defense and FEMA.

Goal is to prevent and mitigate flood damage in the Town of Wentworth and its watershed.

- Establish hydraulics of watershed.
- Measure five dams for capacity.
 - Army Corps of Engineers-dam evaluation
 - Capacity of five water control dams
- Measure all bridges and GPS mark
 - Evaluate integrity-DOT
- Volunteers measure all culverts
 - GPS record site
 - Measure opening
 - Grade quality and integrity
- Collate data on overlay process
- Correlate hydraulic study with bridges, culverts and dams to see potential flood damage points

- Develop a town maintenance schedule for bridges, culverts and dams to mitigate flood damage.

A.Scheller made a motion that he would write a letter of thanks and recommendation to the volunteers that worked on the culverts. Seconded by J.King. Both voted in the affirmative, and the motion carried.

Chief Trott provided his written report for the WPD, and it is a part of these minutes. He also addressed a resident's complaint of a possible safety issue on N. Dorchester Rd. The resident suggested to install signs that would slow traffic down.

J.King made a motion to allow the Road Agent to purchase new signs or replace old sign after determining safety issues with Chief Trott. Seconded by A.Scheller. Both voted in the affirmative, and the motion carried.

Chief Ames and Paul Manson were not present at the meeting and did not provide written reports.

A.Scheller informed that the Highway Department will have overtime this week for mowing and trimming with rented equipment. It is more cost effective to pay overtime than to rent the equipment for a longer period.

J.King presented an agreement for HEB Engineers to assess and post the N. Dorchester Road bridge. The project cost is \$10,300. There is not enough in the highway department budget to cover this, so it was suggested to take out of the Bridge Expendable Trust.

A.Scheller made a motion to sign the HEB agreement for the N. Dorchester Road project and to take the cost of \$10,300 from the Bridge Expendable Trust. Seconded by J.King. Both voted in the affirmative, and the motion carried.

J.King gave an update on the Class VI Roads committee. It was determined that parts of Saunders Hill and Ellsworth Hill Roads are Class VI. The snowmobile club and landowners will get together to develop a plan for maintenance and will report back to the committee.

The next Class VI Roads Committee meeting will be held on Monday, August 16th at 5:30pm. This will be a mobile meeting to walk the Ellsworth Hill section to Nichols Hill Bridge. Meet and park at Nichols Hill Bridge. You should be in good walking shape and wear muck boots.

The state is looking into road usage by ATVs and snowmobiles and may be ready to present to legislature in the fall. J.King will write a personal letter to address some of the issues and present it to the Select Board. A determination will be made to see if the letter should come from the Town.

J.King reported that there is no word yet from HEB Engineers regarding the gravel pit property. He is continuing to look into various federal, state and local agencies that may have an interest in the property.

J.King reported that FEMA obligations for projects have slowed down due to recent flood damage in southern New Hampshire. A virtual meeting was supposed to be set up with our new FEMA representative out of the Boston office, but has been delayed.


Omer Ahern spoke about the Grafton County Broadband Committee. They are looking into getting a fiber optic network and have put out RFPs. They will also submit a grant application to request up to \$30 million for this project. Grafton County towns may also consider using their American Rescue Plan awards towards this project. This is still in the early stages. For more information, please contact Nicholas Coates, Town Administrator in Bristol, NH. He heads up the Broadband Committee and can be reached at 603-744-3354.

J.King made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by A.Scheller. Both voted in the affirmative and the meeting was adjourned at 6:11pm.

Respectfully submitted by: Linda Franz, Administrative Assistant



Arnold Scheller, Chairman



Andrew Lasser



Jordan King

WPD Activity Report
Presented 08/10/2021

Please note that the following is a summary of notable activity conducted by the Wentworth Police Department, (WPD), but does not reflect “all” of WPD’s activity during this time frame.

The race track has not functioned the last two weekends and these non racing weekends were a scheduled event and they will resume racing this Saturday August 14th at 14:00 hours, 2:00 PM.

The Wentworth Police Department did take a theft report this past weekend. It was reported to Chief Trott that a pair of brand new skidder chains had been stolen from a site in Wentworth. The theft apparently took place recently and is under investigation.

Chief Trott took a report of a lost cell phone. The cell phone was accidentally left on top of a vehicle which left a residence on Rowentown Road. When the owner realized what he had done they stopped the car and the phone had already come off. They checked the roadside but was unable to locate the phone. If anyone finds a black cell phone on Rowentwon Road please notify Chief Trott.

Chief Trott arrested a resident from Ashland for endangering the welfare of a child, simple assault with bodily injury, and simple assault with bodily injury domestic violence related. These charges were a result of an active investigation between the Wentworth Police Department and New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services their Division of Children, Youth and Family. The arrest was made without incident and the defendant was released on bail with conditions by the Plymouth District Court.

There has been a noted increase in motor vehicle complaints in several different areas of Wentworth. Because of this increase Chief Trott has adjusted his schedule and targeted the problem areas that have been brought to his attention. Several warnings have been issued as well as several citations. Chief Trott is encouraging it’s residents as people who are traveling through Wentworth on a regular basis to be more mindful of their speed.

We have also seen an increase in OHRV complaints on the south end of Wentworth. Chief Trott wants to remind it’s residents and visiting population that there are NO roads open to the operation of OHRV’s anywhere in the town of Wentworth. Any persons found operating on a public way in Wentworth will be issued an OHRV citation.

