

**Rutland Town Select Board
Highway Committee Meeting
1-6-17
Town Offices**

Present: Mary Ashcroft, Joe Denardo, Byron Hathaway.

1) Transportation Board "Slip Lane" Decision

The slip lane decision issues by the transportation board allows the Town to build the so-called Farrell Slip lane from Route 7 south of the intersection with Green Mountain Plaza, across Cop John Drive, to Farrell Drive. The decision contains some conditions which may be onerous, expensive or problems for the town, including undertaking a FHA required environmental review, town to bear all costs of construction and signage, town to obtain all necessary permits, closure of Cob John Drive to all traffic north of Farrell Drive intersection. The permit also requires that the Town submit plans for additional or expanded uses to the Transportation Board. The permit requires construction within 2 years.

The Highway Committee agreed that we have several options: appeal the permit to eliminate the conditions we don't like, build the slip lane as permitted, accept the permit as written, knowing that we are likely to do in the direction of building a service road and NOT the slip lane. The Highway Committee agreed to recommend the last option to the Select Board.

We should pursue the service road. The slip lane is OK, but it does not address the long term needs of the traffic in this area of the town.

2) Proposed Service Road:

1) Scoping study elements to be put together from what Stantic has sent in the e-mail to Byron; we should ready to go out to bid after Town meeting if bid is favorable—Byron will check on property top deed language

2) We should draft a letter and Circle article re: why we are talking about the service drive/walkway and why we are deciding not to pursue the Farrell Slip Lane at this time

3) Money for the traffic studies for this slip lane were contributed by several of the area businesses, so we need to let them know, and the Farrell reps know, what we are thinking. We should have a meeting with key property owners and businesses in the near future—before Town Meeting.

3) Other business:

The highway committee also discussed:

--Center Rutland Falls Scoping Study—we should see if Susan Schreibman will assist with this grant writing and at what cost.

--Covered Bridge rehabilitation: the RT Seniors discussed saving this old bridge at their last luncheon meeting. Byron will explore whether we can use the old study to apply for a new grant, which we won but the Select Board rejected 15+ years ago.

--Crosswalk at Town Office in center Rutland: We need to pursue the next step, perhaps do an informal study to determine the number of pedestrians likely to use a crosswalk in this area.

--We should revive the Complete Streets group, or set up another group, to do a sidewalk survey of all town sidewalks and the condition they are in.

There being no other business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 9:59AM. Respectfully submitted, Mary Ashcroft, Select Board Member.