

Public Works Committee
Minutes – Regular Meeting
March 19, 2019 10:00am

The Seven Devils Public Works Committee met on Tuesday, March 19, 2019 at Town Hall. Present were Mark Bailey, Jack Byrnes, George Ehlinger, Larry Fontaine, Brad Lambert & Barrie Winn. Also present were Public Works Director Kevin Aldridge, Town Engineer David Poore and Town Manager Debbie Powers. The minutes were recorded by Town Clerk Hillary Gropp.

CALL TO ORDER

Town Manager Powers called the Public Works meeting to order at 10:00am. Nomination for the Public Works Committee Chair was requested.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Brad Lambert was nominated as Chair by Larry Fontaine; seconded by Jack Byrnes. All members agreed.

George Ehlinger was nominated as Vice Chair by Larry Fontaine; seconded by Jack Byrnes. All members agreed.

ADOPT AGENDA

Member Fontaine made a motion to adopt the agenda; Member Byrnes seconded. All members agreed.

APPROVE MINUTES – June 19, 2019

Member Fontaine made a motion to approve the minutes; Member Byrnes seconded. All members agreed.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Anne Fontaine – 127 West Rocky Top offered sincere thanks and compliments to the entire Public Works department for the wonderful quality of work they perform for the Town.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

STATE OF PUBLIC WORKS IN SEVEN DEVILS

A) Effects of Winter

Public Works Director Kevin Aldridge states the winter is almost over. The Town received approximately 2 feet of snow in early December and minimal snow since.

B) Status of Maintenance Equipment

A new snow blower was purchased for Public Works by the TDA; this will help in the future for big snow storms and will work along with the snowplowing trucks. Previously the Town has borrowed equipment when needed.

Overall, the fleet of PW trucks are in good shape, with no damage. Snowplowing occurs 24 hours a day, but it keeps the snow level under control, and prevents putting extra stress on the plow trucks.

Public Works will be purchasing a new utility truck, to replace an existing truck. Due to the wet ground, there have been numerous fallen trees and Public Works has spent a significant amount of time with clean up of limbs & chipping debris.

C) State of Roads & Waterlines

To date, there have been only small waterline leaks and repairs have been done. The roads have held up well, but Public Works still needs to clean the roads. The roads of Alpine Drive & Devils Lake Drive are showing "alligator cracks", but the past patching of other roads remains in good condition. After PW department cleans the Town roads, there will be a better idea of condition for needed work.

Discussion occurred about homes being built on various roads and resurfacing should be held off until after completion of construction.

The Lakes community still needs completion of hot patch in areas; it was not completed before winter.

D) State of Road Shoulders & Ditches

Member Fontaine reports Thorncliff Drive is rough and narrow, the road seems to fall off the shoulder. The "S" curve ditch is getting deeper and might need rip rap. Chair Lambert inquired if there is an ordinance to fine vehicular traffic if they tear up a ditch/road/shoulder? Manager Powers replied an ordinance (UDO-Pg.109) exists for New Construction, but not other violators. Enforcement is the challenge. There are many rentals & visitors, and this traffic causes a disproportionate amount of the damage. Chair Lambert suggests an ordinance to fine the owners of rentals. Public Works Director Aldridge reports the Town's ditches will have a spring cleanout soon. The recent NCDOT work at Skyland has been an improvement. Discussion occurred about the water management & drainage at Phase I in The Lakes Community. The HOA has complained the problem is worse. PW Director Aldridge communicated with the HOA that due to the 120 inches of rain that occurred in 2018, this caused excessive runoff that is inherent to the mountains. Property owners need to take better care of the drainage for their property, as part of the solution. Work was done at Devils Lake Drive at Telemark Lane to improve drainage. PW department will continue to monitor for drainage settlement.

E) Status of Otter Falls Expanded Parking

PW Director Aldridge reports he is still waiting for the fence installation and will leave the parking lot as is, to settle, then add gravel next year. Uncertain when the official opening will occur, meanwhile, safety cones remain in place. The vehicle capacity allows for additional 3-6 cars.

F) Impact of Expanded Parks Program

The Town has applied for the RTP & PARTF grants to help build the Peak Mountain Trail. The Blue Ridge Conservancy will grant 10 ft. deeded easement for the trail & maintenance by the Town. By having the Town involved with BRC in building the

trail, considerations are a priority to the accessibility & accommodation needed by 1st Responders & RTV vehicles. A position of Parks & Recreation Technician will be created; additional clean up manpower could be supplied through organizations, such as, Forest Service, Scouts and Civic Groups.

BLIND ROAD ANALYSIS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Chair Lambert inquired about the amount of funds to be figured for the FY19/20 budget for roads. Manager Powers replied \$90,000.

PW Director Aldridge & Town Engineer David Poore will go out, review & score the Town roads and provide an updated Blind Road Analysis for the next PW meeting.

WATER LINE ANALYSIS & RECOMMENDATIONS

The committee decided to hold off on this discussion.

POTHoles USA

PW Director will contact Potholes USA about starting work earlier in the year, so all repairs are completed prior to winter.

COMMENTS & RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2019/2020 PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS

To occur at next Public Works meeting.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Town Manager Powers wrote a "Snowplowing 101" following the heavy snowfall in December. It is to help educate the public about what to expect after a snowfall and the responsibilities of the Town's responsibilities. It has been distributed in the water bill inserts and is posted to the Town's website.


The next Public Works meeting will be on Tuesday, April 16, 2019 at 10:00am.

ADJOURN

Member Fontaine made a motion to adjourn; Member Byrnes seconded. All agreed. The meeting adjourned at 11:00am.



Brad Lambert, Chairman



Hillary Gropp, Town Clerk