

**SUMMARY OF RESULTS OF IMPORTANT MEETING
AUGUST 27, 2008, MULTI PURPOSE ROOM
MULVEY MUNICIPAL CENTER
THREE SPECIFIC GENERAL AREAS FOR DISCUSSION**

OPENING REMARKS First Selectman Noel Bishop welcomed everyone to the meeting stating that the wishes of the Board of Selectmen and the municipal employees are to be working together as a community. We recognize that all problems cannot be solved but the purpose of the meeting was to identify major concerns and, when appropriate, suggested recommendations. Mr. Bishop commented that “we are not two Westbrooks” and that all of us are interested in working together for viable solutions. He acknowledged the presence of several municipal employees who would serve as a resource to address any questions that might arise. Also, the purpose of this meeting was not to circumvent the authority and responsibilities of any board, commission or committee in the town but rather to raise the awareness of mutual issues. What follows is a summary of the major topics that were identified in the forum with recommended “Next Steps”. Please see attached the Power Point presentation that documented several of the services that the town currently provides, including a comparison of assessed property values in surrounding towns and a Capital 5 Year Plan for Public Works.

MAJOR TOPIC

- I. **Minimal maintenance on private roads for safety purposes will be part of the road maintenance schedule on an ongoing basis.**
 - a. **Potholes**

General Comments: Per Superintendent of Public Works John Riggio, potholes are handled year round. He also stated that the potholes have been repaired in the Stannard Beach area.

Next Steps: Continue to survey roads and repair potholes as needed.
 - b. **Costs of minimal maintenance**

General Comments: Slides were presented showing services provided for private roads (**see PowerPoint attached**)

Next Steps: Continue minimal maintenance on private roads for safety purposes.
 - c. **Map of private roads**

General Comments: Map and handout provided showing all private roads.

Next Steps: Provide locations of private roads, as needed.
 - d. **Paving/Plowing**

General Comments: Per John Riggio, plowing and sanding in winter. No private road paving but costs presented showing 2” overlay vs. chip seal and the savings afforded.

Next Steps: Continue to plow and sand private roads.
 - e. **Schedule for attention to private roads:**

General Comments: John Riggio stated that he has prepared a 5 Year Plan.

Next Steps: (**See attached**). Present 5 Year Plan to Board of Selectmen.

II. Situations where town property is draining on private property will become a documented issue.

a. Clarify the responsibility of the town to fix drainage on private property.

General Comments: John Riggio stated that he met with a state engineer from the D.O.T. recently regarding the Route 1 drainage into Cedar Lane. Splash pads could be placed to divert the water. Permits will be necessary and will take time to procure.

Next Steps: Work with the CT DEP on this issue.

b. Water running off of town property causing flooding on private property.

General Comments: Acting Sanitarian Dick Leighton stated that although drainage in the Stannard Beach area is difficult to maintain due to the terrain, there is not any threat of contamination from septic systems as most are in solid sand.

Next Steps: Not applicable.

III. For those people who have private roads, there can be discussions of the pros and cons of making private roads public.

a. Can the town change the standards of roads?

General Comments: Gerry Dyar, President of the Council of Beaches described the history of the non-standard roads as a very gray area inside the state and the town. It boils down to offering the roads to the town. Fire and safety issues are extremely important. All roads should meet specifications required by the town.

Next Steps: Review when applicable.

IV. Other Issues

a. Tree trimming on Stannard Beach Road

General Comments: John Riggio responded to a question regarding trimming of trees, as school buses will now travel down Stannard Beach Road.

Next Steps: Tree trimming will be completed as soon as possible by the Public Works Department.

V. Additional Comments

- a. Marilyn Ozols, Planning Commission Chairman stated that the Planning Commission would be looking at the standards of private roads soon. She reiterated that there are very specific standards for these roads.
- b. Superintendent of Public Works John Riggio stated that the town crew could be hired for improvements to private roads and/or as consultants if requested.
- c. Superintendent of Public Works John Riggio stated that since the jetties are deteriorating and they have been in existence for over 40 years, there are options to repair or replace them **(see slide attached)**.
- d. Trooper Rob Hart spoke to the issue of enforcing speed limits on private roads stating that the speed monitoring signs collecting data will help to enforce observing the speed limits but they cannot hand out an infraction on a private road.
- e. Cathy Winger, Chairman of the Traffic Advisory Board addressed the issue of no parking signs stating that their jurisdiction is for public roads only.
- f. First Selectman Noel Bishop spoke to the issue of revaluations stating that questions have been raised, such as rolling back to the assessments prior to the most recent reval or a property tax cap. When a new assessor is hired, additional information will be forthcoming.

- g. Fire Chief Ralph Buck stated that residents should call 911 if they have a water issue, i.e., standing water in their basement and they will pump out the basement. He found it advisable for residents in a “flooding” area to have a sump pump available.
- h. George Pytlik, Director of Emergency Services stated that volunteers are very active in town for medical or weather related emergencies.
- i. In response to a question on standing water and mosquito control, Dr. Jeffrey Bernstein, Health Director stated that the firm of Innovative Mosquito in Madison, CT has treated 20 or so locations around town.
- j. In his concluding thoughts, Gerry Dyar stated that he felt that the public is always informed and that this is democracy at its best.

FINAL COMMENTS BY SELECTMAN BISHOP

The request was made that if there are any more questions following tonight’s meeting that they be put in writing and sent to the Selectman’s Office. There will be follow-up with the town’s attorney regarding legal clarification as appropriate on some of the above issues. It was further noted that an Ad Hoc Committee be established to work with the First Selectman and municipal employees to continue to monitor issues related to the ownership of private properties. This report and attachments will be distributed, with the help of Gerry Dyar, via email to the Council of Beaches members, the municipal website and will be available in the Mulvey Municipal Center for your review. Mr. Bishop strongly encouraged that any time any member has a concern, feel free to contact him directly for a status report on the meeting.