EAST HADDAM PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

SCENIC ROAD – SUBCOMMITTEE

LAND USE OFFICE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 24, 2022

Richard Pettinelli, Secretary

Susan Kinsman

Louis Salicrup

Iren Haines, First Selectman

Erik Dill, Selectman

Steve Hedler, Public Works

Jim Ventres, Land Use Administrator

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ATTENDANCE

Members Present - James Ventres, Richard Pettinelli, Susan Kinsman, Irene Haines, Erik Dill, Louis Salicrup, Randolph Dill

Members Absent - Steve Hedler

Materials Presented

- Town of East Haddam's Scenic Road Ordinance.
- A list and map of scenic roads in East Haddam.
- A letter from Randolph Dill to the East Haddam Planning & Zoning Commission, dated on January 21,2021 outlining the issues on Beebe Road.
- An A-2 Survey of Beebe Road and handwritten measurements of the width of the roadway taken in 1996.
- Traffic counts by the hour taken by the Lower River Valley, COG, dated January 31, 2022, to February 07, 2022.
- Construction Guidelines, Appendix A Gravel Roads Construction Maintenance Guide.
- Section 1 - Routine Maintenance and Rehabilitation – Gravel Roads Maintenance and Design Manual.

3. DISCUSSION – Beebe Road

It was noted that this was the first sub committee meeting held in over a year and the goal for the meeting was to outline the concerns and formulate a path to investigate a long-term solution for Beebe Road, a designated scenic road.

The concerns are as follows:

1. Road Maintenance – Constant complaints about the condition of the road surface. Wash boarding or ruts was the most common description of this complaint.

2. Continued widening of the scenic road through grading and vehicles deliberately compacting the shoulders of the road.

3. Erosion fouling the wetlands and the Moodus Reservoir.

4. Excessive speeds on a roadway that is posted for 20 miles per hour.

Part of the process to develop a solution was to determine the following:

1. What equipment does the Town of East Haddam presently own to maintain the gravel surface? Graders, rollers, etc.

2. If it is not the proper equipment, can it be purchased or leased?

3. Are there proper funds in place to maintain gravel roads?

4. Do we have proper training for the town crew to maintain the roadway?

5. Are we purchasing the proper material to maintain the road?

6. Is there enough base material to properly maintain the road. Have we ever collected cove samples to determine the base depth?

7. Do we need the services of an engineer to discuss a complete re-construction of the roadway to create a more permanent solution, this and including replacing the two existing culverts?

General discussion noted that if the base was not sufficient, then the town would be continually patching the surface and wasting funds.

It was also noted that options may have to be explored to resolve the problems. They were as follows:

1. Consider cross sloping the roadway verses crowning it to reduce failure.

2. Determine if a uniform width is needed to properly maintain the road.

3. Consider a complete re-construction with an engineered designed to preserve the roadway.

4. Consider paving the surface. This option was not at the top of anyone's list since it was pointed out that Beebe Road met all the six criteria points listed in the state statues and the town ordinance as a scenic
road.

It was noted that the traffic counts were extremely low but, the average speed for a gravel road was high. High speeds are a major contributor to gravel road failures. It was noted that speeds typically accede forty-five miles per hour.

It was pointed out that the other scenic roads did not have this problem because, they were narrow and winding, while Beebe Road has a straight level section of the roadway which people gain speed on.

It was requested that addition signage or radar speed signs be installed to make people aware of the excessive speeds. It was also requested that law enforcement conduct some patrolling of the area.

The Committee agreed to review the material presented and to meet again when Steve Hedler from Public Works could be present.

4. **ADJORNMENT -** The meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM

The public may also view the public hearing on YouTube Live at the following link:https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLZq-CmatoKY6FW829c6mBA?view_as=subscriber

You can view supporting documents on the official East Haddam web page, www.easthaddam.org, go to the calendar on the bottom right corner, click the meeting date, and open the appropriate application. Questions or comments before the meeting or during the meeting can be sent to the following email: jventres@easthaddam.org