



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
October 13, 2017
Site visit at Whitney Brook Road
9:00AM**

PRESENT:

G. William Helm, Jr., Chairman
Janet Kidder, Selectman
Kim Hallquist, Town Administrator

OTHERS PRESENT:

Richard Lee, Public Works Director
Chris Hansen, 256 Whitney Brook Road
John Clough, 306 Whitney Brook Road
Bob Hutter, 280 Whitney Brook Road

Chair Helm called the meeting to order at 9:00AM.

Chris Hansen explained the issue of the water that is running down the road and into his yard. It has formed a ditch around the house that is now full of sand and silt that has come from road run-off. Over time it has run down and into the back so he installed a six-inch pipe which took care of it for a year or two. The water volume has increased and all the silt comes down, hits the end of the pipe, causing water to build up. He has to keep digging it out to prevent it from plugging up. He submitted a video from three years ago to show the volume of water that is coming down. He explained that another issue is the runoff coming down the driveway. The left side washes out and he must shovel out the dirt to put it back into the driveway. He would like this under control so it doesn't continue to wash out.

Chair Helm asked Richard Lee, Public Works Director, for clarification regarding where the water is coming from. Mr. Lee explained there are two issues. One is the water coming from the road into the front of the property and the other is the water coming through the woods into the back of the property. The water in the front is draining 1,200 feet of ditch line. It comes down around the corner and into John Clough's culvert under his driveway and down the road. When Bob Hutter built his driveway, he was required to put a 12" pipe under his driveway because of the volume of water running down the ditch. This was done 27 years ago, and the same amount of water comes through there with the exception of heavy volume rain storms.

The water around the back starts from runoff coming from the town of Wilmot. Everything is draining from the top of the hill down the drainage swale. It compounds as it comes down but it is going where it is supposed to go. He suggested working with the town of Wilmot to get the water off the road and possibly into the woods.

Mr. Hansen stated that at the top of the hill where the Wilmot line is, there are two (one on the left and one on the right) turnouts going into the woods. The drainage coming down these swales, in theory should be dumping into the woods. There is also a catch basin which also brings the water across. They have some controls in place. The concern is how to control it so the back yard isn't

getting flooded. If it's the same amount of water, then something else has changed to increase the water flow coming down through.

Chair Helm stated that the topography hasn't changed so there must be more water? Mr. Hansen looked at the history and there have been years that there has been more rain and he hasn't had the amount of flooding he's experiencing now. Even though there may be more concentrated rain storms at times, over time, it has caused more erosion.

Ms. Hallquist asked Mr. Lee about the turnouts at the top of the hill. He stated that if they don't work, it keeps pushing the water down the ditch and down the hill. Back in July, the top turnout in Wilmot failed. It dropped it to the second one which also failed and also to the culvert and plugged it. It came across the Huntoon's driveway and at the town line plugged the New London culvert with dirt, leaves and sticks. Water then came flowing to the next driveway and did the same thing. When it came around the corner it went through the culvert, which is where it is supposed to go because it is overflow. The bulk of the water then went out the back. Ms. Hallquist asked what the chances were of having the turnouts fail less often. Mr. Lee feels it's a maintenance issue - they have to be kept clean. If the water is turned to the woods, some of it will absorb, but some of it but it will still go down Whitney Brook Road. It won't go anywhere else.

Chair Helm asked if a culvert could be put under Mr. Hansen's driveway. Mr. Lee explained that to do that would mean there would be a four-foot ditch on the side of the road. It would also be costly as there is ledge as well. It is now sloped so the water doesn't run past the driveway as it used to. A culvert wasn't required back when the driveway was put in because the water wasn't an issue then. Chair Helm asked if the road was paved would it help? Mr. Lee stated that they would have the same issue and that it would not help.

Mr. Hansen feels that the over the years of pushing dirt around, something has been tweaked over time and caused the flow of the water to change. He's owned the property for 26 years but it is now to the point that it's having a big effect. He feels the water needs to go across the road instead of running into his back yard. Permission would be needed from the property owners in order to bring the water flow across the street onto their property. Ms. Hallquist asked if this has been an issue on and off over the years. Mr. Hansen feels it's not only the volume but it is more concentrated than before. Mr. Hansen suggested getting a professional opinion to evaluate and understand what is happening on the road. He feels a civil engineer should do a review to give options.

Selectmen Kidder asked Mr. Lee what he feels could be done. Mr. Lee stated easements would be needed if it is to be re-routed onto other property. The concentration of water is the same. Chair Helm feels a conversation with Wilmot is necessary as the town's first step. Selectmen Kidder agreed, and suggested writing a letter to the Wilmot Selectmen. Mr. Hansen feels it's eroding his property and this is unacceptable. It is ruining his property value by putting a ditch in the back yard. Mr. Hansen does feel that this issue started when Wilmot improved the upper part of the road. The second thing Selectmen Kidder suggested was making sure the culverts on the New London side are maintained and clear.

The meeting adjourned at 9:34 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Trina Dawson, Recording Secretary
Town of New London