

Minutes of Emergency Meeting of the Selectmen

19 August 2008

Members present: R. Stephen Leighton, Chairman, Lynn Sweet and Stephanie Gray.

Meeting was called to order at 8:00 A.M.

Greg Messenger, Mark Messenger, Scott Young, Mike Richard, Rob Lobdell and Dick Jenisch attended.

This meeting is being held pursuant to the emergency closure of Bridge No. 085/040 located over a brook on Northwood-Bow Lake Road.

The Road Agent contacted the State to do an inspection of the bridge due to a hole appearing on the top. After completion of the inspection, phone calls to and from the State, notification was received recommending that the bridge be barricaded and posted "Bridge Closed". It was noted that this bridge is inspected annually as it is on the "red list". Placement on the list, however, was due to future repairs needed for the cap/deck. This closure was recommended due to footings/abutments being undermined apparently due to the unusually heavy rains this year. After discussions with Road Agent, Town the Attorney and NHDOT, the Board of Selectmen made the decision to do as directed by the State. Any inconvenience to the public will be greatly outweighed by trying to protect their safety and wellbeing. Police, Fire and Rescue and School/SAU were all notified of the closure. All Departments involved took action to provide alternate routes for residents, school busses and safety services. Information will be placed on the website and provided to Channel 9 News. Mr. Jenisch advised that School is sending mailings to parents of students who will be affected.

Board and Road Agent are in discussion with Nancy Mayville (NHDOT) regarding our location on the bridge aid list and time frame. It was noted we had qualified for the program. Under the program, we could be reimbursed for 80% of the cost of repair/replacement. Beginning at Town Meeting in 2004, we started contributing to a NCRF for future bridge repairs/replacement as part of the criteria to apply for NHDOT Bridge Aid Program. We now have over \$35,000. available.

A couple of engineers have been in discussion with the Road Agent, Selectmen and State in the process to determine extent of damage and what options are available. Grouting under the footings, or use of a "Bailey Bridge" may be temporary and relatively quick fixes. Cost of temporary bridge and availability is still to be determined. Temporary bridge would not require wetland permit as it goes over shore to shore and doesn't touch the water. Narrow span (12') of existing bridge was noted. Board will discuss further at their regularly scheduled meeting this evening. A couple of engineers will be inspecting the site at 11:00 A.M. today.

As motion was made and seconded to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 9:05 A.M.