

Site meeting at South Road / Rail Trail intersection

The meeting was scheduled and posted for 4:00 pm to view the failed drainage structure that is along the former rail line that runs under South Road. The weather was raining lightly. Present were Dan Tatem, Stantec Consultants, Mike Weeks for the NH Trails Bureau, Leon Holmes Jr, Road Agent, Select Board Members Jon Benson and Gene Cordes. At about 4:20 pm the meeting was joined by Select Board Member Roger Barham and a representative of Weaver Construction, a contractor from Bow, NH.

There was some discussion of the history of the old railroad crossing under South Road and the need and urgency to address the failed drainage. Ideally there is an interest in not only addressing the current drainage problem but also to consider installing a box culvert to allow the rail trail off road traffic to travel under South Road, which is a State of NH cost issue. The scope of that would require significant permitting in terms of cost of design, approval processes and duration of time involved in the planning and approval process. There was consensus that the drainage failure is current and needs to be addressed.

Dan Tatem is going to look into approaching this as an urgent repair need and look for what is needed for approval to install a new culvert with the capacity that would be equal or greater than the granite culvert that has collapsed. It is hoped that it can be installed at a location that will allow for a box culvert to be installed for off road trail traffic use at some future point when State or Grant funding can be identified and the design and approval process completed.

Leon Holmes Jr expressed concern about the potential cost of the repair and the budgetary implications. The Select Board is concerned that repair is the highest priority and the potential installation of a box culvert for trail riders use is a “down the road” consideration when a plan can be made and approved and State-related funding identified.

Dan Tatem will get back to the Town after he has been able to look into the repair options, the approval process and estimated cost of the materials and repair (culvert replacement) work.

The meeting ended at approximately 4:35 pm. No decisions were made.

Meeting summary by Gene Cordes