

Athens Special Selectboard Meeting Minutes  
July 28, 2023  
5:30pm at the Athens Town Office

In attendance: Sandi Capponcelli, Hannah Regier, Janet Perry, David Bemis, Denise Randall, Krista Gay, Scott Jensen, Amber Stevens, Matt Perry

**Called to order at 5:30**

**Adjustments to Agenda**

Hannah asks to add the inspections for oil tanks.

*David makes a motion to add the inspections for the oil tanks to the agenda. Janet seconds. Put to a vote: All in favor*

David asks who is going to fix the oil tank. Hannah explains that it is the fill pipe on the town office oil tank that needs to be fixed. Dead River says it should be an easy fix of unscrewing the pipe, adding some new tape, and re-screwing it. If the town wants Dead River to do it, they would, but the driver today said that Matt or Eugene can probably do it. David says that Matt and Eugene can get that done and then have Dead River back to look at it.

**Public Comments**

None

**Reed Road**

Matt suggests that the town follows what Scott Jensen suggests. Matt says that Cersosimo is on board with everything the town needs. Denise asks if the road has been stabilized since the slide happened. Matt says it is still eroding and the slide is almost at the travel lane. There are Jersey barriers coming Monday or Tuesday at no charge. A. S. Clark will probably be picking them up.

Scott has a standard detail drawing of his plan. Scott says that Matt had shared some numbers with him that the state had come up with. The state had wheeled the incline and come up with 96 feet. Scott came up with 95 feet of incline and 50 deep from using Lidar. He thinks that is accurate within 2 feet. That would give 86 feet straight out, which is better than a 1:1.5 slope, which is considered a relatively stable slope where growth can be established. The slope is pretty close to the existing banks on the road. On this type of slope next to streams Scott says to put 4' + heavy riprap in the bottom, keyed in 4' into the ground at the toe of the slope. VTrans came up with 100' long. He says to tie into what is there — there is no need to go further unless it seems really unstable. Scott says these details are preliminary as he didn't walk to the bottom of the slope, but it's good enough to put out for an RFP. After a few tiers, transition to type 2 stone up to the shoulder. Matt says it will probably need a guardrail because it will be a connected segment and can't have a berm. Scott says to add grubblings all the way down and

get stuff growing on the slope. Matt asks if he can use material that has been previously cleaned out of ditches and Scott says it would work well.

Another culvert is also needed so that water isn't sitting the ditch line and saturating the road, with a stone-lined spillway from the culvert outlet down to the riprap. The old, existing culvert will also need this stone-lined spillway treatment.

David asks if Scott thinks the slide was caused by the storm and the flooding. Scott says yes, he definitely thinks it was from stormwater. He thinks the town should be more persistent with FEMA. He thinks this is similar to damage in other towns that FEMA is paying for. This slide is on a bigger scale than other similar slides along rivers where it started at the top and needs to be filled in along the road.

Matt says that FEMA didn't necessarily say no, but they were up in the air with it. Matt said the town might have to go through the appeal process. Sandi said that the two guys from FEMA left the door open to the town applying for a grant. They said to fix the slide and still apply for a grant. David and Denise ask what happens when FEMA doesn't pay for it — where will the town get all the money? Janet says the town can't take a chance on losing the road. Scott says that it would be good to put it out to bid so the town knows what the cost will be. He says to keep an eye on it and if it starts to really fail it will become more imperative to do something. At this point the road itself doesn't need a lot of work, just the slope.

Scott says he hasn't checked what kind of soil is on the slope. If it is a granular material, it could be reused. If it isn't it would have to be removed and a dense graded material brought in to help rebuild the slope. Matt says he will talk to Jeff at Bazin. Contractors are really busy right now. Scott says A. S. Clark could also do it. Amber says Ivor is doing all the riprap in Grafton and is pretty swamped but could look at it.

*Sandi makes a motion to put out RFPs for the plan Scott outlined and to advocate with FEMA. Janet seconds. Put to a vote: all in favor.*

Matt says when he met with the FEMA representatives, they said the town should go ahead with the project. The FEMA reps were there to help private landowners, not to specifically look at the Reed Road slide. They weren't technicians. Sandi says that even if FEMA approves the project, it might still be 18 months before the town gets a check. Matt will get out an RFP for the project. He will write it up with Hannah on Monday to put in the Brattleboro Reformer and the state website. Scott says to watch out for opportunistic contractors.

Amber brings up emails from Kim Canarecci about mandatory FEMA workshops that are being offered. Janet has the info on that as well. David asks if people can attend. Janet says she will do the Monday session.

*David makes a motion to have Janet be the contact person for FEMA for this project. Sandi seconds. Put to a vote: all in favor.*

Matt asks if the town should talk to WRC about filling out the paperwork because FEMA would cover the cost of an admin. David says that is a possibility but wants to get a price on it because if the town ends up paying he doesn't want it to cost a lot. Scott suggests to ask at the FEMA meeting what other towns do.

Denise asks if FEMA would pay for the work if the town goes with Scott's recommendation instead of VTrans recommendation. Matt says that they would pay for any repair as long as it's done the correct way.

Matt asks if they need filter fabric on the slope for this work. Scott says no, not to use any fabric on this kind of slope. VTrans hadn't come up with a specific sketch for the project. When they talked to Matt, VTrans wanted to do a type 4 keyway 30 ft deep with stone in it. And then step in and fill with type 3 stone for 30 feet, making steps with smaller stone as it worked up the bank. That came out to 2800 yards of stone. Scott thought that would be an extremely conservative way to do it.

David asks if someone can get down in there with a big excavator. Matt thinks they can go in through the landing spot towards Jimmy Trimble's land.

### **Further Business**

*David makes a motion to adjourn. Denise seconds. All in favor.  
Adjourned at 5:49*

Respectfully submitted,  
Hannah Regier, Town Clerk