

Athens Selectboard Meeting Minutes
October 20, 2024
Will convene at the Town Garage

In attendance: David Bemis, Sandi Capponcelli, Janet Perry, Krista Gay, Denise Randall, April Lyman, Don Capponcelli, Dan Taylor, Donna Currier, and Heather Chaudoir.

Called to Order at 3:03pm

Adjustments to the Agenda

There were none.

Public Comments

Heather referred to the video of the May 16, 2019 in which Tom Taylor now retired Road Foreman mentioned the area as a driveway (Butson Circle) but she feels it is not a driveway since the houses around the circle each have their own driveway.

Culvert Viewing

The culvert in question is located at the corner of 126 Brookline Rd, goes parallel to Brookline Rd for approximately 110ft +/- and empties into Mill Brook. There is a secondary, shorter culvert between Taylor Hill and Butson Circle which may or may not connect with the longer culvert which under observation may be undersized according to state regulations. It should also be noted that the culvert in question has probably not been replaced in over 45 years according to one resident.

Dan mentioned that at a previous meeting (5/16/2019) it was said that the culvert in question would be replaced which did not happen. This situation might have been mentioned at a secondary meeting during 2019. Neither David nor Denise remember the particulars of either meeting. Heather said at Tom's last meeting with the SB in 2019 he spoke to the culvert still needing to be replaced.

During the winter of 2023/2024 there was a build up of ice that caused a dangerous situation not only to the residents of Taylor Hill and Butson Circle but also to the public due to the ice covering a section of Brookline Rd. At one point the town road crew attempted to break up the ice on the road and put salt on it to help melt it.

Krista questioned whether any culverts that aren't on the State Culvert List are taken care of by the town. Dan stated that the town has done the one at the foot of Mirante/Wicker driveway when it messed up, cleaned out one on Reed Rd. due to it being plugged.

Dan stated he thought the longer culvert was probably rotted away and no longer doing it's job which is causing the icing issue. Concern was expressed that future winters may also bring the same situation happening in this area.

Mention of the culvert situation with Andy Toepfer was brought up again. There had been a verbal agreement at some point due to a radio tower located on Andy's land that the road past the town road would receive help in maintaining it from the town. Andy's purchased 2 new culverts for this section of road and the road crew installed them.

Dan said 'they' would buy the culvert. There was a brief discussion about the culvert not being a town culvert. Krista expressed concern about any injuries which may happen and potential liability which could cause issues for the town. She also expressed that in situations like this documentation is important. Janet would like more research to be done concerning the situation. Krista would like to know what needs to be looked into? There was a brief discussion on whether or not culverts were actually purchased at the time (2019) for this. That is something which can't be determined as there is no paper trail to follow.

Janet believes that if the town takes over this particular culvert and puts it in, every driveway culvert in town will have to be maintained by the town.

Denise suggested, they (unsure if this is residents of Taylor Hill and Butson Circle or just Taylor Hill) buy the culvert, the town installs it and then the property owners maintain it per state regulations. David suggests we speak with the State, Sandi offered to email Marc Pickering at the Dummerston DOT office about the situation.

Denise does not want to wait another month for a decision, Janet brought up we do not have a complete road crew at the moment and Dan suggested we could hire Ivor Stevens for the job.

David - Question – if the culvert is bought and the town puts it in do we have to take ownership of the culvert?

David – we will make a decision at the first part of next week and hold a meeting.

Heather, if it can't be replaced this fall then any help in keeping the ice/road conditions in check would be appreciated.

Motion to Adjourn made by David and seconded by Krista. All in favor.

Adjourned at 3:30pm

Respectfully submitted

Sandi Capponcelli