

**TOWN OF NEW DURHAM
GRAVEL PIT SITE WALK
June 27, 2023, 3:00PM
New Durham, NH 03855**

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PRESENT

David Swenson – Select Board Chair
Dorothy Veisel – Select Board Vice Chair
Marc DeCoff – Select Board Member
Mike Gelinas – Powder Mill Snowmobile Club
Nicole Zoltko – Town Administrator
Will Cardinal – Road Agent
Cathy Orlowicz – Zechariah Boodey Farmstead Committee, Chair
Russ Weldon – Resident
Crissa Evans – Zechariah Boodey Farmstead Committee, Member
Stephanie Lundy – Administrative Assistant

Site Walk Discussion

The site walk was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Chair Swenson at the New Durham Community Room. All present drove to the site of the Gravel Pit off Stockbridge Corner Road (Map 251 Lot 021-000) and entered off Berry Road.

Mr. Gelinas stated that when entering the gravel pit the trail to the right of the road will stay as it currently is. The trail to the left is the section he would like to move. He stated that section is hard to maintain, especially if the temperatures are too warm and the wetlands would not freeze. Mr. Gelinas would like to move the trail about 20 feet closer to Berry Road. This will get the trail out of the wetlands.

Chair Swenson asked Will Cardinal, Road Agent, if moving the trail closer to the road would be acceptable. Mr. Cardinal confirmed, yes, it would be acceptable and would not compromise safety.

Mr. Gelinas suggested having the new trail run down the side of the road (Berry) to the opening of another trail. The use of this trail would only require 3-4 feet of brush to be cut for the groomer to fit. This trail would then connect back to the original trail.

Chair Swenson asked Mr. Cardinal if a guard rail would be needed to separate the trail from the shoulder of the road. Mr. Cardinal stated there would be no need for a guard rail. Mr. Gelinas stated the groomer isn't wide enough to reach the road. Mr. Cardinal pointed out a mound of dirt on the shoulder, saying that that is how far out the wing of the plow reaches.

Mr. Gelinas stated they would have to trim anything within 8 feet of the roadside for the groomer to fit. There was discussion on two trees and if they would need to be cut or not. The question is whether they are on unencumbered land could they be cut? Mr. Gelinas stated he believed the two trees are on town forest property. Mrs. Orlowicz stated one of the parcels of land was state owned, the town didn't know it, but then eventually bought it from the state, but is not a part of the town forest.

Mr. Gelinas believes there are 5 acres of town property here. Chair Swenson states it can be confirmed looking at maps.

Chair Swenson commented on the vegetation and that it would not be overly impacted. Mr. Gelinas agrees and again states that the purpose of moving the trail is to get out of the wetlands.

Mr. Weldon says the two big trees might still be in the way. TA Zoltko stated that the Forestry Commission may possibly need to be contacted if this is not part of the state land that was purchased.

Mr. DeCoff asked if this piece of property has any restrictions for these two trees to be able to cut. Mr. Gelinas shows where he figures about where the property line is.

Mr. Gelinas stated last winter was the worst they have had in terms of temperatures not freezing water on the trails. He stated you couldn't get across Merrymeeting Lake as it wouldn't freeze. He said no one wanted anyone on the lake with ice and open water just feet apart. Mr. Gelinas asks if the trees are on unencumbered land, if there would be an issue with cutting them. Mr. DeCoff states he has no problem with it so the trail can be widened there (if it can be done).

On a separate subject Mr. Weldon suggested a seasonal speed reduction in the area from the State boat launch to Meaders Point Road. He states 25 mph is too fast during lake season. He says he tried driving it at 15 mph but felt that is too slow so he believes 20 mph would be a good speed. Mr. Weldon states that the area of the community beach across from Marsh Hill Road is very narrow and close to the water with lots of kids during summer season. He suggested May – September for the seasonal posting. Chair Swenson states he will ask the Police Department if they would like to bring this discussion to the July 11, 2023 Select Board meeting.

All present leave the location at 3:22 p.m.

Submitted by

Stephanie Lundy

Administrative Assistant