



Minutes
Moretown Legal Trail and Class 4 Road (LTC4R) Committee
Wednesday, April 10, 2024
-Draft-

The meeting was held in person at the Moretown Town Office and online via Zoom.

Members Present: Martin Cameron, Paula Mastroberardino-Woods (Chair), Colin Nohl, Bob Sargent, John Schmeltzer, Dave Stapleton, Chris Stephenson, Callie Streeter (Vice-Chair)
Staff Present: Carol Chamberlin, Zoning Administrator
Others Present: Travis Blodgett

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the March 27, 2024 meeting were approved.

It was confirmed that the minutes of the March 13, 2024 meeting would not be approved due to potentially inadequate warning of the meeting.

Outline and Prioritize a Work Plan to include the following:

- Reviewing the existing policy, focusing on where changes are needed, and making recommendations for policy updates to the Selectboard
- Looking into any procedural changes to be recommended, such as who is responsible for evaluating sight lines for new driveway/private road access onto town roads
- Ensuring that potential property owners understand the need for due diligence in determining access to parcels via C4 or LT roadways
- Reviewing the current list of C4A/C4B roads, determining if any should be moved into or out of the more regular maintenance schedule

Paula had provided a first draft of Policy revisions, and the Committee discussed what changes should be incorporated. Topics raised and points agreed upon included:

- Curb cuts
 - Coordination between Road Department/Selectboard/DRB should be outlined and the process made clear for applicants
 - E911 address application processing will determine what class of town road the access connects with
 - References to state-level regulatory information should be included
 - Paula will provide related information for the next meeting

- Curb Cut Application may need some revision
- More information regarding legal trails should be incorporated into the Policy
 - References should be to 'legal town trail' throughout
- Goals
 - Include a reference to natural resource protection
 - LTC4s are generally not suitable to provide access to development
 - Discussion regarding whether Town is open to development along these roads or prefers to preclude such development
 - Town not able to take on increased roadway maintenance
 - Properties along these roads/trails are more affordable and therefore attractive
 - The roadway may not be where indicated (on map or physical appearance) and must be verified
- A reference to the official adopted map will be included just before the Definitions section
- Clarification of parties responsible for reviews/approvals is needed
 - No current Road Commissioner
 - Selectboard 'designee' suggested – should be specified that this person is full-time Moretown resident
 - Martin outlined some of the types of requests for maintenance that come in, and how they are triaged
 - Road Foreman should not be only person making decision regarding these requests
 - Protocols should be in place
 - Class 4 group A and B designations have not been reviewed in recent years
- Private party improvements to Class 4 roads or legal trails
 - Property owners need guidance from Road Department re culvert sizing, etc. – this requires staff time
 - Improvements → more development → greater impacts on Class 3 roadways leading to the improved non-town-maintained sections
 - Town may be responsible for restoring failed culverts on LTC4 after flood events
- Reclassification section of Policy
 - PC should address in Town Plan the issue of whether or not reclassification of these roads/trails (in either direction) is supported
 - Bob made suggestions for changes to simplify this section, removing the language that is already part of the related statute, which is referenced
 - Requests should go directly to Selectboard, not to the committee which reviews maintenance requests
 - Reference consistency with Town Plan as well as the public interest matters outlined
 - Include 'discontinue' in lead paragraph
 - Potential for reclassifying all Class 4 B roads as legal trails
 - Changes obligations and discourages future development
 - Fewer impacts on emergency declarations
 - Surrounding towns do little/no maintenance on Class 4 roads

- Increased development on Class 3 roads means more regular maintenance on those roads is required of the Road Department

Next Steps/Goals for Next Meeting

Paula will incorporate the changes agreed upon into the current draft of the proposed Policy, and forward the updated document to members for review prior to the next meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Chamberlin, ZA