

Indian Rest South Meeting – Minutes

2020.11.15

Attendance: Steve Blessington, Mike Crawford, Jodi Crawford, Julie Ruzcek, Nat White, Scott Stuart.

Pre-meeting. Mike opened by thanking members for attending an outdoor even though it was getting chilly. Mike then emphasized how important it was to him for the group to make decisions together as a team. Everyone wants the safest road for the lowest cost over time, and everything after that is a detail we can figure out – we're all on the same side of the table, even if we have different ideas. Any time there's a seeming conflict of solutions, there's usually a way to address everyone's concerns, often with a win-win solution. The key is to go into problem-solving mode and look at the pool of concerns, rather than focus on one solution-versus-another. Mike said that if anyone ever feels that something appears unfair, or if someone thinks there's a better way to accomplish a set of goals, that all he asks for is the benefit of the doubt and an open conversation. All agreed this was a useful way to proceed.

Agenda. Discussion, modification, and approval. Agenda submitted via email approved unanimously.

Minutes. Approved by Ruzcek/Whites, Blessingtons, Crawfords. Stuarts will review by 1 December.

Maintenance – schedule. All agreed on the schedule and map made available prior to the meeting. Not a beauty contest or country club, but brush cut to allow clear views of the road and to allow leaves to be blown/raked, and leaves blown/raked far enough off the road to keep them out of ditches. Steve moved to accept the schedule and map, Scott seconded, passed unanimously.

Maintenance – IR road. Mike said that while the town is in charge of road maintenance where the mailboxes are, well as the culvert across the street, the Crawfords have been keeping it clear of leaves and brush since the town re-dug the ditch and cleared out the culvert. It may be the town's responsibility, but the town doesn't take care of it, and we all bear the cost of the lake and ice rink that result. Steve questioned if the ditch needed to be maintained, or if it really was just leaves. Mike replied that there's almost zero brush, and since the road I paved there, it's really just taking care of leaves in the fall. Ruzcek/Whites, Blessingtons, Crawfords will take turns with culvert/mailbox area. Scott will contact the town and see if they'll step up and save us all some work.

Maintenance – ditches. Ruzcek/Whites, Blessingtons, Crawfords offered appreciation for Stuarts' ditch work. Mike said the deeper ditches help keep the road firmer by lowering the groundwater level under the road and draining the soil from the sides, while the 3"-4" stone fill would reduce the risk vehicles should they slide off the road. Mike said that while he was against having the work done, and would not have agreed to it if asked, that this didn't reduce his appreciation for the generosity. Mike expressed two concerns: 1) That any work on the road other than agreed maintenance be voted upon, and 2) Since the stone fill means we can no longer dig sediment out of the ditches, we need to do whatever we can to keep sand and surface material out of the rocks. All agreed. Scott moved that any unplanned work require discussion and vote, unless it's an emergency and members are unavailable. Mike seconded. Passed unanimously. Mike moved to grade the road periodically to prevent erosion channels, adding polyacrylamide stabilizer during the grading process to mix it into the surface and keep sand and surface material out of the ditches. Steve seconded. Passed unanimously.

Maintenance – pro quotes. Mike reported that the pro quotes on spring/summer/fall maintenance from Rodsco and Wetty were \$30/hour and \$40/hour respectively, yielding totals between roughly \$600

and \$1,500 based upon the 20 to 46 hour range from maintenance history on the schedule spreadsheet. Mike mentioned that the two companies would likely have similar costs – Rodsco is lower per hour, but Wetty would likely have heavier-grade equipment and/or multiple workers at the same time.

Maintenance – sharing/plan. All in attendance reaffirmed the previous vote on the plan for members to take turns, using the Agent to coordinate turns and track work. No need for a motion. Mike said he'd be willing to grade up to four times per year, roughly \$2,800 if billed by Wetty, as the Crawford contribution to spring/summer/fall road maintenance, with other members handling brush, leaves, and ditches. This would reduce material going into the ditches compared to Wetty regrades, which put a lot of material into the ditches in summer/fall 2019, plus even just one or two gradings would cover the Crawford share of the other work. Mike made the motion, seconded by Steve. Steve and Scott mentioned that this works for now, but would need to be revisited if the reclaim requires no grading and/or we move to a semi-permanent surface. Mike amended the motion accordingly. Passed unanimously.

Maintenance – past. Mike offered to call it even for the past five years of plowing and road maintenance, starting with a clean slate after the meeting, if the group accepts the maintenance schedule, grading, and proposed plowing arrangement/cost. Given that the schedule and grading have already been discussed and approved, that leaves the plowing. Ruzcek/Whites and Blessingtons agreed; Stuarts to consider.

Maintenance – resurfacing. Blessingtons, Stuarts, Crawfords agreed on Wetty's quote for reclaim, in combination with polyacrylamide stabilizer to keep the reclaim in the road surface and out of the ditches. Stuarts to get a Labbe quote.

Snow removal – expense sharing – costs. Discussion of the updated spreadsheet created in response to requests at the June meeting, looking at various cost options based on the 26 plow runs performed during the 2019/2020 season, updated to compare to the lowest pro cost (Wetty). The proposed cost in the "c" version of the expense-sharing spreadsheet for 26 runs is \$740 less than the Wetty rate for 19 runs, and \$1,600 less than the Wetty rate for 26. The reason for the 26 runs that were done is that the 12 full runs are not enough to allow winter residents access to their houses during storms, and to keep the road clean and scraped in order to prevent ice buildup over time. The reason for a 19 run comparison with Wetty is that at least half the additional runs were needed for safety.

Scott said the plan might work, though he still had concerns. His first concern was maintaining access to 17 Peboniwi for work and school commutes, asked if plow runs can be done by 7am and by 4pm when needed. Mike agreed this could be done as part of the free mid-storm/cleanup/scrapedown runs, with the caveat that unforeseen circumstances could prevent specific runs. Scott's second concern was the seasonal cost of winging back snow banks and pre-storm plow safety sandings.

Snow removal – expense sharing – pre-storm sandings. Mike reported that he and Scott met with Wetty on-site in September to discuss plow costs. Wetty said that when the hill is iced, either chains or pre-storm sandings were required; one or the other. Likewise with winging-back snow banks vs. periodic snow removal with an excavator – one or the other. Wetty provided an updated quote that includes winging back snow banks and pre-storm plow-safety sandings. Scott mentioned that he did not recall Wetty's statement at the meeting regarding requirements for plow safety, and also that he was unclear if the 5-6 sandings in the new Wetty quote referred to pre-storm plow safety sandings or to residential sandings. Mike will ask Wetty for clarification and forward Wetty's response to the group.

Snow removal – vote. The group will vote on the proposed plow expense sharing plan after reviewing Wetty's response. Vote-by-email will suffice if the vote is unanimous; if there are dissenting votes after email discussion the group will meet in person to vote and resolve.

Snow removal – past. Tentatively covered in the arrangement mentioned in "Maintenance – past" above. To be determined until after snow removal expense sharing is approved.

Sand barrels. Mike mentioned at the last meeting there was discussion about covering the material cost of existing sand barrels, and that Scott had requested an additional barrel halfway up the south side of the IR Extension hill . Mike said we could always have that one built and then base costs on that one. Scott said that since we almost never use the sand barrel at the end of the "T", and when we do, it's almost always for the IR Extension hill, we could just move the existing barrel to the new location. Mike will move the barrel the next time he has a few brawny friends around to help with the heavy lifting.

Scheduling meetings. As agent, Mike will prepare for spring and fall meetings, as well as set up meetings in early April and early November in order to meet the 1 May and 1 December deadlines in the agreement for assessments. If those dates don't work, Mike asked if another member could do the additional coordination because the meeting prep work is a lot on its own. Julie volunteered.

Adjourn. Nat moved to adjourn, Scott seconded, passed unanimously.