

# July 18, 2002

First Selectman Elaine Luckey called the meeting to order at 4:37 p.m.

## **Present:**

Selectmen: Elaine Luckey, Nicholas Solley, Harry Wyant

Guests: Kenneth Phillips, Paul Doherty, Wykeham Road residents

Press: Litchfield County Times: David Lombino, Maria di Mitrova, Kristen Gunerman

**Wykeham Road:** Kenneth Phillips requested an update on the Town's plans to keep the speed limit low and ensure safety on the newly-paved Wykeham Road.

- As a reminder to stay within the speed, the Selectmen reported the police have been running radar and have apprehended a few speeders. They will be using a voluntary compliance device, which will remind drivers of their speed as they approach the mechanism. They have reported that after several days of observation, people seem to be traveling at the same speed as before and the traffic does not seem to have increased. A speed limit of 30 mph will be posted for the section of Wykeham between Route 47 and Old Litchfield Road, while 25 mph will be posted for the section between Old Litchfield Road and Nettleton Hollow Road.
- Mr. Phillips felt the number of semi-trailers would increase with the new, smooth roadway. Elaine explained she had conversed with both the State Department of Transportation and the police regarding the request for No Thru Trucks signage and found that the law allows that trucks entering the Town for the purpose of making deliveries anywhere within the town would have the right to use the road. At this point, it was felt these signs are unnecessary.
- Mr. Phillips requested the width of each lane be kept to a 10 ft. maximum and a bike/pedestrian path be outlined on the edge of the roadway. He felt this would keep traffic flowing more slowly. Nick Solley felt this could be somewhat dangerous for busses or trucks to pass each other. It was noted the D.O.T. usually determines a 10 ft. width might be allowable if less than ten per cent of the traffic is in trucks.
- The Selectmen noted the centerline of the road would be painted on the crown of the road for safety purposes. It has not been the policy of the Town to paint side lines on the road and it was felt too much striping would deter from the rural aspect of the road for which neighbors had expressed their concern. The road foreman had indicated he did not think painting the sides of the road was a good idea and has spoken with the D.O.T., who will advise further.
- Speed bumps will not be placed on the road as had been requested.
- Mr. Phillips asked if they would be advised on the road width before or after the fact; and if the Selectmen thought it would be useful, he could provide 100 signatures. Elaine suggested before he put forth the effort to get 100 signatures, that they should have a conversation. He was advised that the current plan is to put one line down the center of the road just before school opens. There are no plans for side lines or broken lines as the Town does not recognize passing zones on town roads.

Paul Doherty agreed that enforcement and vigilance is the best method to reduce speed. He felt the reminder is a good start and that 25 mph is appropriate for that particular section of roadway.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the previous meeting were tabled.

## **Appointments:**

**Historic District Commission:** The Selectmen received a letter of resignation from Anne Burton with regret and noted their appreciation of her efforts.

**Inland Wetlands Commission:** Elaine Luckey moved to appoint Mike McGowan as an alternate to the Inland Wetlands Commission until 1/1/2004. Nicholas Solley seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

## **Old Business:**

### **Highways:**

**Intersection: Church Hill & Sunset Lane:** The Selectmen had visited the area and agreed if the grass on the sides of the road were cut back to allow a better sightline it would be preferable to adding more signs in town.

**Crosswalk - Parsonage Lane & Route 47:** Elaine reported she had spoken with representatives from the State D.O.T. regarding the possibility of a crosswalk at this intersection. The D.O.T. felt this might give walkers a false sense of security as the road has a difficult sight angle when driving up the Green Hill. They suggested a Pedestrian Crossing Ahead sign might be of more value and will discuss this further. They will also review the speed limit posting on Green Hill and entering the Depot.

**Bell Hill Road Drainage:** A problem that has existed for some time in front of the Clarke residence was discussed. Water runs from adjoining land and the road into their driveway. This will be reviewed further.

**Tree Spraying:** Bill Bader has reported Wright Bros. of Bethel will spray the diseased hemlocks behind the town hall.

**Transfer Station Fees:** Harry has spoken with Charley Showalter regarding the fees sign posted at the transfer station. A simple, more clear sign will be developed.

**Census:** David Lombino questioned if there had been communication recently from the U.S. Census Bureau. It was reported thus far no further update on the Town's request regarding the number of housing units from the 2000 Census has been received.

**Housing Questionnaire:** David Lombino questioned what the next step would be regarding the results of the Housing Study. The Selectmen noted they would like to review the study in its entirety before proceeding. They felt it would be referred to the Planning Commission in the hope that it will be incorporated into the revised Plan of Conservation and Development.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Gollow  
Selectman's Assistant