

FINAL Minutes of the 10/8/07 meeting

Old Stage Bridge Committee
October 8, 2007
Town Hall 7:00PM

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Judy Wilson.

1. Official Town Committee status

Steve Volpone reviewed procedural issues involved in serving on a committee that conducts town business, including the need for all members to be sworn in, the need for draft minutes to be circulated to members within 5 days of the meeting asking for changes and corrections - finalized minutes then officially accepted at next meeting and filed, and for public notices of meetings to be posted.

2. Review of structural engineer's site visit

Judy Wilson reviewed the findings of the September 22 site visit by bridge engineer Dominic Quaraglia, who found the bridge to be structurally sound in his visual inspection.

3. Federal Grant update

Judy Wilson reviewed the status of federal funding available for projects that qualify for Scenic Byways grants administered through the Federal Highway Administration. The "solicitations" for this year's round of funding have not been published yet, but Judy will continue to monitor this. The Hampton Falls Conservation Commission has offered its assistance in writing the grant application.

Steve Volpone stated that if we solicit private contributions, the Selectmen have to vote to accept those funds.

4. Town of Hampton update

Nathan Page, representing the Hampton Conservation Commission, stated that Hampton is still working on securing money from NH DOT promised to the town for toll plaza mitigation. Mark Thompson asked if Hampton is legally required to maintain Old Stage Road on the Hampton side of the bridge. Nathan will follow up.

5. Action items

Various construction ideas were discussed, from repaving and vinyl fencing, to a covered wooden bridge. Fran Rice shared literature showing samples of pre-fabricated pedestrian bridges. The width of the bridge (currently 12 ½ ft) was considered, and whether only non-motorized vehicles should be allowed on the bridge. We will continue to discuss both issues.

Nathan suggested we develop “good, better, best” plans.

Committee members volunteered for the following tasks:

Covered bridge requirements – Mike Henry
Preliminary budget – Paul Fitzgerald
Construction ideas – Dick Robinson and Paul Fitzgerald
Public Relations Liaison, Secretary – Fran Rice
Funding and Media Relations – Judy Wilson

6. Next meeting

November 12, 2007 at 7:00 PM, Town Hall

Fran Rice moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 PM. The motion was seconded and passed.