

**Brandon Select Board Hearing
Discontinue Portion of Old Basin Road
August 13, 2018**

Board Members Present: Seth Hopkins, Devon Fuller Doug Bailey, Brian Coolidge, Tracy Wyman

Also in Attendance: Marietta Sheehan, Mike Lee, Stephanie Lee, Cheri Jankosky, Joseph Jankosky, Ray Jobst, Jonathan Sagendof

1. Open Hearing

Seth Hopkins, Board Chair, opened the hearing for public comments at 6:40PM.

Mr. Hopkins stated the hearing is relative to the discontinuance, laying out & alternation of roads document regarding the Old Basin Road portion of Town Highway #29, starting approximately .52 miles from the intersection of Van Cortland and continuing to the intersection of Basin Road.

The hearing was open to public comment.

Marietta Sheehan advised she had witnessed a fire when driving down her road and was concerned if she had not noticed it, it could have been disastrous. She is against closing the road due to it being an alternate way of getting off the road in the event of something like a fire. Ms. Sheehan also questioned how Mr. Bailey is bothered by four-wheelers.

Ray Jobst noted the road has been impassable for many years and would not be an alternate route in the event of a fire. Ms. Sheehan questioned how the four-wheelers are getting through.

Doug Bailey stated the four wheelers are going through from the other end of the road or are going across John Sagendof's property. Ray Jobst stated to be able to get any vehicle across that road or to convert it to a drivable road would require a lot of work and funds. Mr. Jobst noted he does not have a problem with people coming across his property.

Joe Jankosky stated he drives all over Vermont and there are many roads the same as Old Basin Road. He questioned why the road cannot be left the way it is.

Doug Bailey stated the problem is more than the four wheelers. The Town is trying to control the numerous points of entry. There have been break-in problems and there is an assumption that some of the problems are from the four-wheelers.

Cheri Jankosky stated the road has always been this way and questioned it is being changed. If Basin Road is having a problem with four-wheelers now and they stop them

from coming that way, they will start coming up Van Cortland Road and it will create the problem on that road.

Tracy Wyman stated if that section were open on both ends, the four wheelers would come down that road. He asked why everyone was looking to leave it a class 4 road.

Doug Bailey stated he had deeded off four house lots to be sold and his development is over and now that the two landowners have purchased the final lots, they would not like a lot of travel on their properties.

Jonathan Sagendof stated four-wheeler traffic has increased and questioned if this situation can be dealt with differently. He stated this would become Van Cortland Road's problem as well.

Mrs. Jankosky asked if it is deemed not a Class 4 road whether there would no longer be an opportunity for it to be opened. She also noted that the owner at the end has allowed the snowplow to turn around and expressed concern a future landowner might not be as amenable.

Doug Bailey advised the road is basically a footpath, but it is one of those things that it is not going to make much difference whether the Town drops that end.

Tracy Wyman questioned the property owners' concerns from that end, if something is put at the end of the road for a turnaround. Other than a point of access for walking out, what is the benefit of leaving it a Class 4 road? Mr. Wyman noted that Mr. Jobst had discussed the cost of improving the road with Markowski and they had indicated it would be at least \$100,000.00 to improve the road to get a path of some degree through there. Dave Atherton also noted there are wetlands to consider.

Seth Hopkins stated the Old Basin Road from Van Cortland Road is a Class 4 road and the Town has agreed to maintain it for snow plowing. Dave Atherton advised the Town maintains most of the Class 4 roads, but the Town does not have an obligation to do winter plowing.

Doug Bailey stated this area has been fenced for 50 years and Mr. Bailey has only had one person request permission to cross his land. There have been four-wheelers that have come through and left his gates open that allowed his livestock to get out. His project is complete and he pays taxes on the land, so there is no monetary gain for him personally in closing the road.

Ray Jobst advised that he has graded the road in the past as being part of the neighborhood, but the Town is now taking care of that part of Old Basin Road. Michael Lee noted other residents have also taken turns grading the road in the past.

Dave Atherton advised the Select Board has 60 days to take action on this item.

Devon Fuller summarized that if the Town throws up the road, there is concern with getting out in an emergency, that there is a good turn around area for a snowplow and that once the road is thrown up, it could not be brought back. On the other side, there is interest in throwing up the road to remove the four-wheeler access and that the portion of the road proposed to be thrown up would be too expensive for the Town to upgrade.

Mr. Atherton suggested it would be good to have a cul-de-sac at the end of the road for the snowplow to turn around. In order to update that section of the road, there would be many things that would need to be changed. Mr. Wyman asked if this area were thrown up, would it eliminate the potential for the remainder of Old Brandon Road to be upgraded to a Class 3, if that was the Town's decision in the future. Mr. Atherton confirmed that it would not affect a change of the remainder of Old Brandon Road in the future. Mr. Jobst noted there is currently a turn around for a snowplow.

Mr. Lee stated that he and his wife would not have a problem with the discontinuance as long as there is a good turn around for the snowplow and traffic, and that there could still be potential to upgrade the road class in the future.

Seth Hopkins noted a Class 3 road has to be in good and sufficient repair for all seasons and there are certain standards that are required before a road can be upgraded to a Class 3. Mr. Hopkins stated the Town has to prioritize its highway budget and the Select Board refers to the Public Works Director's judgment for the roads. Dave Atherton advised there are rules and regulations for culverts. The width of the road would also be a problem.

Seth Hopkins noted the Select Board would take action on this subject either at the August 27th or September 10th Select Board meeting.

2. Close Hearing

Seth Hopkins closed the hearing at 7:06PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Bryant
Recording Secretary