Town of Rowe
Board of Selectmen – Minutes
Wednesday, October 19, 2016 – 7:00 pm HEARING
Rowe Town Hall

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chair Wilson at 3:00 pm.

Present: Chair Wilson, Selectman Dennis May, Vice-Chair Quist and Executive Secretary Janice Boudreau

Also Present: Ken Fensky, Felicity Hardee, Fawn Hardison, Leonda Hardison, Lev Hardison, Billy Hardison, Dennis Humbert, Tom Houghtaling, Melissa Houghtaling, Dick Quinn, Susan Gleason, Judy Pierce, John Magnago, Julie Shippee, David Mayer, Anna Humbert, Timothy Houghtaling, Nan Williams, Jack Williams,

Chair Wilson opened the meeting stating that the Hearing was being held to Discontinue Maintenance on the lower Tunnel Road portion of 2.1 miles past the current residents' dwellings. It was to formalize discontinuing maintenance on the part that is currently impassable to regular vehicular traffic.

Citizen Comments :

- The attorney representing the Hardison Family , Felicity Hardee Esq., said that the Town of Rowe did not have the authority to Discontinue Maintenance on lower Tunnel Road since locating a document confirming that it is a County Road. The document states in 1874 the Franklin County Commissioners were petitioned to lay out Tunnel Road.

Chair Wilson said the document would need to be sent to Town Counsel for view before taking any further steps.

Citizen Comments Continued:

- Citizens expressed concerns over the bridge and the owners of the bridge, Pan Am Railways, did not have any plans to repair the bridge and its safety was called into question.

Chair Wilson confirmed that due to the weight limit of the bridge of 6 tons, Town vehicles could not safely cross the bridge. Due to safety concerns of Town Employees, the Town could no longer use the bridge, however, plans were in place to accommodate ambulance, police and fire occurrences.

- A resident of lower Tunnel Road expressed concern about the future should the road maintenance be discontinued and the bridge be closed and how it would affect the residents.

- There was discussion about the ownership of the bridge and their responsibility for maintenance of the bridge.

- There was discussion about the possibility of opening up Tunnel Road and the cost that would be incurred in doing so.

- There was discussion about whether Rowe could take ownership of the bridge and obtain funding to repair it.

Chair Wilson explained that the cost of reopening lower Tunnel Road would be substantial since it has not maintained for many years and it would need an extreme amount of work to reopen. She agreed that there needed to be further discussion with Pan Am Railways about the future of the bridge and that costs of opening Tunnel Road could be investigated and the citizens of the Town could decide whether to reopen road for general public use.

Adjournment: Seeing no further business, Chair Wilson made a motion to adjourn the Hearing at 8:20 pm. The motion, seconded by Selectman May, unanimously accepted. (3/0/0)

Respectfully Submitted,

Janice Boudreau
Executive Secretary

Approval Date: November 2, 2016

Approved:

Marilyn Wilson, Chair

Walter J. Quist, Vice-Chair

Dennis May, Selectman

ATTACHMENTS:

- 10-19-16 Hearing Agenda
- Rowe Map 411
- Notice of Hearing in Greenfield Recorder 10-05-16
- Notice of Hearing in Greenfield Recorder 10-12-16
- MGL Chapter 82 Section 32A
- Notice of Public Hearing posted 09-28-16
- Certified Return Receipt Cards for 6 Abutters: Bookfield Renewable, Hardison, Houghtaling, Pan Am Southern LLC, Rowe Land Trust, NE Power Co.