
NORTHWEST HILLS ROAD SUPERVISOR ASSOCIATION

An informal forum for sharing practical information on local road maintenance and improvement in the regional area.

MEETING MINUTES

OCTOBER 27th, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT:

WINCHESTER/WINSTED, Jim Rollins
WINCHESTER/WINSTED, Phil Bascetta
SALISBURY, Donnie Reid
SALISBURY, Rodney Webb
CORNWALL, Jim Vanicky
SHARON, Jamie Reid
GOSHEN, Garret Harlow
HARWINTON, Dave Bosquet
NORFOLK, Troy Lamere
MORRIS, Kyle Rosenbeck
WARREN, Josh Tanner
LITCHFIELD, Raz Alexe

NHCOG STAFF:

Robert A. Phillips, Executive Director

Chairman, Raz Alexe called the meeting to order at 10:10AM

An introduction of the NHCOG's new Executive Director, Robert A. Phillips, AICP was made as well as each member in attendance.

Introduction of Featured Speaker: Richard N. Symonds, P.E., District Engineer, ConnDOT District 4. Topics discussed included those in the PowerPoint sent to all members of the Road Supervisor's group subsequent to the meeting and available from NHCOG.

Winter Preparations Round Table: Lobbying suggestion for NHCOG is to request a consideration of raising the prevailing wage threshold above \$100,000 to at least \$500,000. The potential for mutual aid was discussed if COVID spikes the winter again (plowing and treatments). It was noted that several departments are only at 50% vaccination rate at this point.

Public Works Equipment Collaborative (PWEC) Update: Training and Usage on JAMAR Laser Traffic Counters was offered. They have yet to be used in the PWEC program by any town. General training needs were discussed including the potential placement of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in each vehicle in the PWEC program to reduce maintenance issues. New

equipment was discussed such as the purchase of a small bucket truck (less than 30 feet in height) for the multitude of tree trimming necessary in the region. This would be much easier to employ than retaining and scheduling tree trimming vendors. Dead trees were discussed as a major impending problem. Many Ash, Hemlock and Maple trees are dying from invasive insect infestation in the region, EAB, etc.. These issues need to be addressed in town budgets now as it will take a great deal of time and money to take them down.

State and local coordination during recent major storm events. Eversource has been better but issues still remain with coordination and information sharing at the local level. Local Tree Warden's responsibilities and process was discussed since tree damage is the most likely storm impact in the region in all seasons.

Salt Vendors/Delivery and Plow Blade Vendor/User Response. This item was discussed by the Executive Director and the process was explained along with the lack of plow blade vendor response due to logistical and material impacts of the pandemic.

Road Supervisor Forum: Municipal Updates and General Discussion of Road Related Issues. Mention was made for the COG to consider expanding the Regional Engineer options from 3 to 5 at the next Bid Selection. Crack sealing Bid Process was discussed as well and the need to pursue this prior to the spring season or perhaps extend the current bid another year. There was also a suggestion for the COG to explore a Bid Process for vendors to perform a full depth reclamation using state specs.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20PM