

Attendees: Chris Bump, Mike Blakslee - VTrans District 4  
Jaron Borg - VT DEC Stream Engineer  
Kricket McCusker - Consulting Engineer  
Chris Mattrick, Brian Austin, Judy – US Forest Service  
Doon Hinderyckx, Robert Meagher, Jim Bowen – Rochester Selectboard  
Dan Gendron - Rochester Road Foreman  
Joan Allen - Assistant to the Selectboard

A pre-visit discussion took place at the Town office, covering:

- Recent legal action taken by property owners appealing the road closure and its referral to the VT Attorney General's office.
- Mike Adams of Army Corps of Engineers could not attend today's meeting, but will arrange for a visit in early January.
- An access easement on private property to reach the failure site and a special use permit from the USFS will be needed, since the failure is located on USFS land.
- The slope will need to be stabilized enough to allow work to be done, and the allowable period for tree cutting due to potential long-eared bat habitat needs to be worked out, and mentioned in the bid package for the project engineer. Kricket will coordinate with Brian on the bat issue.
- VTrans will prepare resource clearance documents, and provide them to USFS for their use for a NEPA filing.
- Joan will prepare a draft easement for the Carter property, using the same template as the Welch easement. Dan will meet with the Carters.
- It was agreed that the engineering RFP would go out this Thursday or Friday, with **responses due by 1/15/16** and a mandatory **pre-bid meeting on 1/4/16**, coordinated by Kricket.
- A special SB meeting will be scheduled for **Friday, 1/15/16 at 4:30 PM for bid opening**.

An on-site visit was made to the Carter camp, located off Rte. 73, to view the slope failure from below, consider options for getting equipment and material across Brandon Brook and to the site while minimizing stream disturbance.

- USFS can allow the cutting of trees for public health and safety reasons. Cutting needs to be done during this winter, so slope failure work can begin this spring.
- USFS can do the acoustic testing to determine the presence/absence of bats.
- We discussed different locations for the staging area and stream crossing: During the summer, we need to avoid the USFS camp grant entry across Rte. 73. Can we use the state pull-off area a little further west on Rte. 73? Jaron suggested temporarily moving the main channel of the brook into an old meander bend while work is underway. Input will be needed for restoration of the main channel afterwards, maintaining the braided system.
- In addition to the resource clearance, VTrans will also obtain clearance for archeology and historic preservation, meeting the federal standards. The USFS NEPA review will be a limited version, under the agency's hazard mitigation clause.
- A possible location for the stream crossing is from Rte. 73 where the guardrail ends, onto the Carter property. Kricket and Dan will investigate the potential for using the existing bridge off Rte. 73, with structural enhancements. USFS has a logging bridge that might be available. Renting a temporary logging bridge is possible, but installation can be very expensive. Joan will investigate the VT Dept. Forests, Parks, & Recreation's skidder bridge rental program.
- The Carters will need information on exactly what will happen on their property and when, and a sketch of the easement area. State funds will cover some percentage of the restoration on the property.
- The Town (Planning and Zoning) will have to do a review of work in the floodplain.

Meeting ended at approximately 1:30 PM  
Minutes submitted by Joan Allen