

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 24, 2024

Present: Jeanne Gervais, Heather McElroy, Greg Manning, Mike Testut, Pierre Gervais, Sheila Alabaraces, Andy Martin, James Ozone

Attending Virtually: Michael Strait, Joel Cope, Mercy Manning

The chairperson, Jeanne Gervais, called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance: All attendees stood for the Pledge.

Updates to the Agenda: None

Bridge Discussion: Jeanne Gervais said that a big concern regarding the damaged bridge on 10 Mile Square Road is the potential to impact emergency service response times. Charleston Fire Department is the primary responder for that side of the road from Route 105, but that EMTs from Morgan access from the Route 111 side. Michael Strait spoke with Newport Ambulance Services COO Jeff Johansen, who said that the potential difference in response time is negligible.

Pierre Gervais also expressed concern about the cost of installing a temporary bridge and the implications for property taxes. The estimated cost is \$7500/month (not including installation and disassembly), and Michael Strait indicated that it would be at least two years before a permanent solution could be installed. The bridge is not considered a “necessity” by the state as residents have alternative routes available. It is therefore not eligible for reimbursement.

Andy Martin suggested the Board look into other options. He explained that the damaged bridge could be removed, a culvert installed, and the area filled in, providing a less costly temporary solution until a permanent bridge can be placed. Andy spoke with Ben Matthews, the stream alteration engineer for the state of Vermont, who indicated that Brighton could pursue any temporary measures deemed appropriate. If Matthews approves of this temporary measure, the Town could then bid out the work. Depending on the size of the culvert and equipment needed, it may not be feasible for the Road Crew to undertake this work.

Heather McElroy made a motion to rescind the Board’s decision on Wednesday, September 18, 2024 to install a temporary bridge. Greg Manning seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried. The Board agreed that Andy Martin will pursue his suggested alternative option.

Adjourn: Heather McElroy made a motion to adjourn at 5:30PM. Pierre Gervais seconded the motion, all in favor, so carried.