

SHERWOOD GREENS ROAD IMPROVEMENT AND MAINTENANCE DISTRICT
413-274-2374

Prudential Committee Minutes for September 9, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 am.

In attendance were Committee members Terry Hayden, Marc Schultz, Joe Hanrahan, Bruce Lipton, Susan Hovani, Sharon Cutler & Joan Boccino

Also present were Bob Moore – Road Superintendent; Kathleen Borden – Treasurer; Jane Hanrahan, District Clerk

Residents present: Sandy Moore, Dean LaGrotteria, Lisa Saunier, Ken Einhorn, Virginia Lavery

The meeting was not recorded.

Review of the August 2023 Meeting Minutes

Motion made to approve the August 5, 2023, Meeting Minutes by Marc and seconded by Sharon.

The motion was approved by roll call.

Joan – abstained.

Treasurer Report

We had \$17,571.19 in receipts this month with \$6,780.00 in disbursements. There is \$15,914.77 cash in the bank. The largest disbursement was for Gary O'Brien for all of the work he did on the roads.

Kathy reminded us that the stabilization account (\$11,000) must be paid back by June 2024.

A question about how much in taxes is never paid was asked. Kathy estimates that we have \$10,000 in lost tax revenue each year. SGRD Corporation is our biggest non-payer.

A question regarding adding a line item for lost revenue was asked and Kathy is going to contact a representative at the state to inquire about this.

Terry is going to follow up with the Town Tax Collector to see if the names of the non-payers have been published in the newspaper. Only The Town of Becket can collect or impose sanctions on anyone who does not pay their taxes. We, as a district, do not have that authority.

Motion made to approve the treasurer's report by Marc and seconded by Bruce. The motion was approved unanimously by roll call.

Roads Report

Thank you to Bob and Joe for cutting the problem trees on Long Bow Lane West and Shuttlecock. Gary gave the price of \$13,000 to cut back all the trees in SGRD before the winter. Marc asked what Gary could do for \$5000-\$6000. Bob would need to go to Gary and get that breakdown.

A suggestion was made to include in next year's budget a specific line item for the tree cutting. Kathy explained that the funds for tree cutting typically come out of the General Road Maintenance fund. A discussion was had about having a long-range plan and an immediate plan for tree cutting. The concern is that there is a possible danger to the community if the trees aren't taken care of, as well as, the fact that Gary is concerned about damage to his equipment if after the first snow comes there are branches that hang so low that they break windows, lights and mirrors on his trucks. Bob is concerned that Gary may refuse to continue to work with SGRD or he will be forced to raise his prices to cover the cost of the damages.

A question about whether Eversource is responsible for cutting low branches of trees that could cause power outages during bad weather and if we could call them to do some cutting. Eversource is responsible for that cutting, but the calls need to be made by each homeowner. Terry is sending an email to all residents to check their trees and to please call Eversource with any concerns.

Marc made a motion and it was seconded by Joe to authorize the Road Supervisor to spend up to \$4000 on tree cutting which is an emergent problem. The vote was approved by roll call and passed 6 yes and 1 no.

Carl & Lisa are having their driveway paved and did not realize that they needed a permit due to the heavy construction trucks possibly causing damage to the roads.

A question was asked about Homeowner's Insurance and would an owner's policy cover the damage. A Homeowners Insurance policy would not cover the damage, which is why a special permit is required. The company providing the work insurance would also not cover the roads, that insurance covers the liability of the homeowner's policy.

A question was asked about what the by-laws say. The by-laws say that a resident must get a permit before installing a driveway.

From the by-laws: SECTION 5. Any person(s) who intends to construct a new driveway that will abut a SGRD way must first obtain a permit from the Prudential Committee pursuant to the procedures and requirements set forth in Section 7 of this Chapter VII. (Amended 6/4/16)

A question was raised that the by-laws say a permit, not specifically insurance. Terry explained that to get a permit the homeowner will need to see Bob who will then explain the insurance requirements.

Terry is going to follow up with the attorney to see if we need to tighten up the by-laws. But, reminded everyone that a change to the by-laws can only happen at a special meeting or at the annual meeting.

A discussion about how to disseminate information about the by-laws to new homeowners was discussed. Sharon asked about a new homeowners packet. Terry does send information to all new homeowners when she knows there has been a sale of property.

Bob suggested a letter posted at the mailboxes on the bulletin board. Bob is also going to investigate getting a new bulletin board because the old one has a broken lock.

Motion made to approve the road report by Sharon and seconded by Bruce. The motion was approved unanimously by roll call. Note: Terry approved the Roads Report except for the approval of funds.

Lakes Report

Aquatic Restoration has done their yearly monitoring and the samples have been sent to the lab.

The year-end report for the lakes will include Water & Wetlands and the report for compliance.

How many days of cutting do we want? We have two days included in the budget, but it does not have to be used.

A question was asked about what happens to the funds that are not used. Kathy answered that the funds get closed out with the new year and then added to a line item that may need more funds.

Marc is going to send out the survey about the benthic mats. Emily offered to look for the mats that were missing. Virginia offered some suggestions of where they could be based on what she saw at the beginning of the summer.

There is confusion about whether the mats need to be taken out for the winter. Terry is going to follow up with Emily to reconfirm what we need to do.

Motion made to approve the Lakes Report by Marc and seconded by Susan. The motion was approved unanimously by roll call.

Mosquito Report

Terry reported that the Mosquito Program ends in October. Spraying only occurred once.

Terry received the following correspondence from Chris Horton: *We are still looking at mosquitoes from Sherwood Greens for West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis. So far we have submitted 26 samples for testing. The mosquito population caught by our traps has not been near the threshold for spraying since July, but we are seeing West Nile in many of our towns. If we see it in your samples we would recommend adult control. We do expect our trap numbers to taper off in September and a hard frost signals the end of the breeding season. We have seen a lot of mosquitoes this year in flood prone areas. Sherwood Greens has shown more mosquitoes than average but much less than the lower elevation communities.*

Motion made to approve the Mosquito Report by Marc and seconded by Bruce. The motion was approved unanimously by roll call.

Additional Business

There has been a good amount of interest in buying property in SGRD. A developer was interested in buying 10 acres to split into ½ acre lots. The zoning requirements state that the lots need to be 2 acres each. The developer went to the town to appeal, and they asked him to come back after he had plans and a perc test.

The Dunn House was recently purchased, and the new homeowner reached out to Terry.

COVID numbers are increasing; please take care of yourselves and do what you are comfortable with to avoid getting sick.

The Town of Becket sent out a message to residents to sign up for text messages. If you are interested here is the info:

For Emergency Notifications, text “BECKETEMER” to 91896

For Town-Wide Notifications, text “BECKETINFO” to 91896

Motion made to end the meeting by Marc and seconded by Bruce. The motion was approved unanimously by roll call.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:12am

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Hanrahan

District Clerk

Documents discussed at this meeting:

FY24 Budget

FY 24-3 Warrant