

Board of Selectmen's Public Hearing
May 25, 2006
Closing of Woodbury to Patterson Lane Off Ramp *Preliminary*
6:30 pm Town Hall

Cosmas Iocovozzi called the meeting to order at 6:36pm.

Present: Selectman Cosmas Iocovozzi, Selectman Jan Stuart, Administrative Assistant Beatrice Marconi, (Chairman Jack O'Reilly – Absent), Fire Chief Roy Greenleaf, Planner Tom Morgan, D.O.T. Representative Nasser Yari, Bill Sweeney, Marcia & Norman LeClerc, Dennis Hebert of the Planning Board, Jack & Gail Pare and Dave Sweeney.

The Public Hearing was opened at 6:37pm.

Cosmas explained the reasons why the Town and State want to close the ramp from Woodbury Ave to Patterson Ln over Shattuck. The State owns the exit. The Town plows it. The State says this ramp is going away with the New Spaulding plan in a few years. While their equipment is in the area paving upper Shattuck, they want to either pave it or remove it. The Cul-de-sac at the end of River Road wasn't originally in the plans. It is now contemplated to remove the cul-de-sac and extend River Road around to Shattuck intersection.

Fire Chief Greenleaf likes the idea of the Cul-de-sac being made into a loop. Dennis Hebert concurs. Nasser Yari from DOT says they would like to see it closed as people use it to go down Shattuck to avoid the traffic build up on the Spaulding to the General Sullivan Bridge. This aggravates the traffic jam problem with them yielding at the foot of the bridge back on to the turnpike. He feels it would be safer for the drivers and save our road from use as a cut through.

Jan Stuart asked when it would happen (the removal). Nasser said almost immediately with the equipment here now.

Bill Sweeney, Patterson Lane resident liked the idea and Norm LeClerc spoke of the traffic back up.

Dennis Hebert says when Shattuck connects to Gosling, they had considered making Woodbury one way but there were pros and cons to the concept at this point. Roy spoke of the potential 'cross over' problems but that was discussion for another day at the Planning Board level.

Cos read the letter from Mr. Todd Gigliano of 101 Patterson Ln. He could not attend. He spoke of the congested traffic flow and back up. He spoke of the cheaters who are avoiding the Spaulding. He felt the closing of the ramp was a hardship.

Cos said how few people rely on this ramp per his observations.

Dennis Hebert asked if the State was doing the changes or if the Town would. He strongly felt the State should be responsible for the Cul-de-Sac reconfiguration.

Nasser said he would bring this proposal to the State and report back.

Selectman Stuart was concerned about the River Road 'V' merge and wondered if it would be troublesome. The audience felt it would be self controlling as more than likely the traffic wouldn't let them in. There is a stop sign at the end of River Road and is actually more of a 'T'.

Yasser mentioned how he couldn't guarantee the State absorbing the Cul-de-sac costs as the Dirty Dirt issue put a strain on the State's budget. He felt off the cuff it would be around \$30,000 to remove the hot top. Cos spoke of the plan and felt it did not include the hot top in the project costs as because in 5 years that area would be decommissioned. 2010 is more than likely when the big reconfiguration job would start all depending on funding.

If we decide to keep the ramp open, the State will hot top it now.

Dennis asked how the Town would pay for the cul-de-sac reconfiguration if it initially had not been budgeted for. Cos said that there is a paving budget and that projects planned on would be juggled around.

Gail Pare spoke of a sign that said 'to Shattuck Way' and felt it should come down. Nasser agreed that if the ramp is closed, it will.

Dave Sweeney asked about the clean fill as a sub base or if the asphalt could be ground and used as a base. Nasser said it would have to be tested to see if it passes their 'clay' tests to ensure the water would run off or pass through acceptably. Tom Morgan said we should not assume that River Road has a good base.

Selectman Stuart moved to have that section of the ramp taken out and closed contingent on the State reconfiguring and connecting the cul-de-sac on River Road to Shattuck. Cosmas Iocovozzi seconded. Motion to close with contingencies, passed 2-0.

Dennis Hebert added that if the ramp is taken out and the cul-de-sac not connected, then how would the snow plows maneuver ? Nasser will keep that point in mind when bringing it to the State.

Public Hearing was closed at 7:05pm.

Bea summarized the action and motion with the Selectmen.

Jan Stuart moved to adjourn at 7:08. Cosmas seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

Respectively Submitted

Beatrice Marconi
Administrative Assistant
Newington, NH