

TOWN OF EATON, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03832
EVANS MEMORIAL BUILDING
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
September 30, 2020

A duly-noticed Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen took place on Wednesday, September 30, 2020 at the Evans Memorial Building. Present were Dick Fortin, Ed Reilly and Joyce Blue. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am.

Signature items included Notice of Intent to Cut Wood for the Town of Eaton (R13-003).

Burton & Linda Day filed a Building Permit application for a generator on a concrete pad at 7 Woodland Acres Road (R05-012). The Building Permit application was reviewed, approved and signed by the Board of Selectmen (Permit #202021).

At 10:17 am, the Board left Town Hall to perform several site visits in preparation of the tax sale.

The Board returned to Town Hall at 12:07 pm and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Lianne M. Boelzner

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN

September 30, 2020

A duly-noticed Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen took place on Wednesday, September 30, 2020 at the Evans Memorial Building and also accessible via Zoom. Present were Dick Fortin, Ed Reilly and Joyce Blue. The meeting was called to order at 4 pm.

Dick Fortin opened a Public Information Meeting regarding the sharp corner of Route 153 at the junction with Glines Hill and Ridge Roads. NHDOT personnel present were: Assistant Commissioner William Cass, Traffic Engineer William Lambert and District 3 Engineer Alan Hanscom. William Cass gave an overview of the temporary placement of the signs, curbing and indicated that input is being solicited before making the decision as to whether the changes will become permanent or removed.

Betsy Gemmecke spoke in support and stated that it makes the corner safer. Don Gemmecke spoke in support and stated that it helps people coming from Glines Hill Road safely enter Route 153. Peter Klose stated that the traffic has slowed down coming north and questioned whether something could be done to slow the traffic heading south. Eleanor Border stated that the stop signs make it safer to enter Route 153 from Glines Hill Road.

Steve Jones stated that his understanding was that the stop signs were to slow down the traffic and noted that it does not do that as people roll through the stop signs. William Cass stated that the immediate focus was to reduce the accidents at the corner. Steve Jones stated that the stop signs do not reduce the accidents.

Heather McKendry explained that Jennifer Rust lives on Ridge Road and watches the traffic go straight rather than follow Route 153 and have to turn around in her driveway. It was noted that the stop signs help alleviate this issue. John Hartman stated that the stop signs do slow down the traffic even if they do not come to a complete stop and suggested placement of a "Conway" sign with an arrow.

Jane Gray stated that tractor trailers have a difficult time making the turn coming north because of the curbing and noted that they have to go into the oncoming lane. William Cass stated that they have noticed the issue and will discuss possible solutions to the narrow intersection. Richard Heath stated that trucks cannot make the corner and questioned the issue of snow removal for the winter as the curbing tightens the corner. Wayne Bradbury stated that the stop signs are a major improvement even if people are not stopping. Wayne Bradbury suggested additional signage to make sure people are going in the right direction.

Linda Barton stated that there is a lot of clutter on the corner because of the flags and signs which makes it challenging. Mark Griffin stated that most vehicles do stop and indicated that enforcement would help. Mark Griffin stated that additional signs would add to the clutter. Jane Gray questioned painting reflective arrows on the guard rail. John Hartman noted that some of the signs are difficult to see because of the foliage and suggested moving them closer to the Church.

Dick Fortin read an email from Eleanor Jenkins in support of the stop signs. Dick Fortin stated that Greg Grinnell also spoke in support of the stop signs but noted that the traffic is still moving too fast in front of the store.

Judy Fowler spoke in favor of the signs as it is easier to come off Ridge Road onto Route 153. Nancy Williams stated that the stop signs make the corner safer. Beth Griffin stated that the stop signs are a big improvement and that she observed a back up of approximately 30 cars only once. Beth Griffin noted that the Sheriff's Department is doing a great job giving tickets to those vehicles not stopping.

Tim Ostendorf spoke in favor of the stop signs but noted that the increase in noise is a little inconvenient for the guests at the Inn. Sheriff Richardi stated that if the stop signs become permanent, adjustments will have to be made in the corner to make it safer for tractor trailers to make the turn without going into oncoming traffic.

Kim Bowker spoke in favor of the stop signs and noted that Dave Condoulis feels it will make plowing safer at the corner properties. Candace Maher stated that the stop signs appears to slow traffic down and suggested a sign that shows the direction of Route 153 to make sure people go in the right direction. Peggy Wescott noted that the stop signs are slowing down the traffic and that no one has hit her house. Sheriff Richardi noted that the house has been hit several times but that stop signs would not have kept them from happening. Dick Fortin noted that in the month of August, the Deputies stopped 14 vehicles for failure to stop and 13 vehicles for speeding. Wayne Bradbury stated that many accidents on the corner are not reported.

Carroll Shackford stated that the rubber curbing is difficult to navigate as vehicles crowd the inside of the corner and also noted that when traveling south, you cannot see up Ridge Road from the stop sign. Don Gemmecke noted that you can see if a vehicle is stopped on Ridge Road and indicated that there has been a tremendous increase in traffic in the area. Carroll Shackford questioned the feasibility of blinking lights. William Lambert explained that flashing lights would be an issue with residents on the corner.

John McBride stated that he is not in favor of the stop signs and has observed traffic backed up to the cemetery. John McBride stated that signage showing which direction Route 153 travels is needed.

Carroll Shackford questioned whether a true four-way corner can be constructed and noted that it backs up traffic. Wayne Bradbury stated that there has been a steady line of traffic but he has not observed it backed up in either direction. Betsy Gemmecke suggested additional signage that points Route 153 in the right direction and thanked the Town for removing the bamboo which makes it easier to see on the corner.

Dick Fortin explained that the Selectmen will further discuss the issue with NHDOT and make a decision based on the input received from residents. William Cass noted that positive feedback has been received and that if the Town wants to make the four-way stop permanent, the change will take place in the spring. William Cass explained that the signs would remain but the rubber curbing would be removed for the winter. William Cass noted that the curve ratios would be reviewed over the winter and that a survey would be done to develop a final plan. William Lambert stated that either additional signs or relocation of signs will also be reviewed.

Dick Fortin questioned methods for slowing traffic coming from the north into the Village by the store. William Lambert suggested a digital speed limit sign as an effective means of slowing down the vehicles.

William Lambert submitted a traffic study for the Selectmen's review and recommended raising the speed limit south of the Village between Freedom and Eaton to 40 mph so that when the limit is reduced to 30 mph coming into the Village, drivers naturally slow down. William Cass asked that the study be shared with Sheriff Richardi for his input.

The meeting adjourned at 5:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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