



OFFICE OF SELECTMEN

Post Office Box 487

Marlborough, New Hampshire 03455-0487

Telephone (603) 876-3751

Fax (603) 876-3313

e-mail: selectmen@marlboroughnh.org

website www.marlboroughnh.org

SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES

February 26, 2024

Chairman Pitt called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Selectman Nelson was present. Also in attendance were Ellen Smith, Town Administrator, Police Chief Zach Byam, DPW Director Craig Cashman and about 12 members of the public.

Chairman Pitt announced that pursuant to NH RSA 41:11, the Marlborough Board of Selectmen is holding this public hearing to discuss temporarily designating Webb Depot Road one-way during NH Department of Transportation (NHDOT) work in Route 12. The hearing notice was published in the Keene Sentinel and posted on the bulletin boards at the Town Office and Post Office on February 14, 2024.

Chairman Pitt opened the public hearing at 7:03 pm. Due to bridge work being done by the NHDOT on Route 12, town officials met with NHDOT officials to discuss the impact the project would have on town roads, specifically Webb Depot Road. NHDOT offers little assistance as they control traffic in their work zones, so it is up to the town to manage any impacts outside the work zones. Due to the distance between the three bridges on Route 12 there will be three temporary traffic lights to alternate traffic from mid-March to October 2024. One of those lights will be at the intersection of Route 12 and Webb Depot Road.

Chief Byam explained that traffic counts on Route 12 show 9,269 as the average number of vehicles in the affected stretch daily. Currently, Webb Depot Road sees an estimated 35 cars per hour during peak hours, he is expecting approximately 77 additional cars will take Webb Depot during construction without any changes to road access, putting 112 cars per hour on the road. Webb Depot Road is normally a tough road to maintain, the added traffic would make it extremely difficult and hazardous. Additional traffic would make emergency response more difficult causing delays in response and would take longer to clear a scene due to limited space to maneuver vehicles.

Several options were considered.

- Do nothing, allowing the additional traffic to utilize Webb Depot Road.
- Close Webb Depot Road completely, this is not a viable option.
- Post the road "Closed to through traffic" or "Local Traffic Only". This option would do little to be effective and would not be enforceable.
- Designate the area of concern as a temporary one-way road.

Residents of 306 Webb Depot Road expressed their frustration and explained the inconvenience that a one-way traffic restriction would cause.

The town is concerned about the potential for a 400% increase in traffic on Webb Depot Road.

Other residents explained their concerns with the speeding traffic that already occurs. There was a brief discussion about lowering speed limits.

Chairman Pitt asked if there were any other comments or questions, noting none the public hearing was closed at 8:03 pm.

Selectman Nelson moved and Chairman Pitt seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 pm. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted, Ellen Smith, Town Administrator