

Chesterfield Gravel Road Committee

Minutes for 8/2/22 meeting

Attendees: John Zannotti, Brad Roscoe, John Kondos, BA Adler, Fran Shippee, Harvey Clough (observing as potential comm member)

Meeting called to order at 12:05 PM

Minutes of 7/22/22 meeting approved.

BA provided a 2-page alphabetical list "Chesterfield Dirt Roads- Bruce" with the gravel distance written in for reach.

The frequency of repair was discussed. It depends on the season and each road's condition, ranging from 2-3 times/year to 5-6 times per season. Winter is sanding and plowing, Spring - mud season some roads need attention every other day. Examples cited of those needing constant repair included Atherton Hill, Gulf, and Poocham while Deans Landing and Egypt require minimal repairs. From end of April work on roads focuses on getting them into good shape. In Fall doing ditching and other maintenance as needed.

The question of culverts was raised and the reference was made to increased intense precipitation events due to climate change. BA said culverts are replaced as needed, noting the Edgar Rd culvert had to be replaced for the 1st time ever.

Road closures was discussed, clarification was made that gravel roads are posted to limit over 6 ton vehicles, though fuel delivery trucks are allowed as would be emergency responders. Closing is avoided, efforts are made to keep roads open. In most cases the worst spots can be avoided by going in the other way w/ the exception of some dead-end roads. Discussion of impassable followed, BA coordinates with the police dept. to address specific concerns as they occur, there are several regular problem spots.

In response to the additional \$80 K authorized at Town Meeting, discussed the plan to work on Atherton Hill because it's a problem road, at a greater distance from Highway Dept., with increasing usage from additional homes. The committee will plan to observe this major repair work starting in late August. It will employ a geotextile (our first project with this). It is expected to last significantly longer than the expected 5 years for the 'fabric' which has been used to date. EJP has more details on the specs, etc.

Discussion of priority evaluation criteria included a decision to tour several problem roads including, Gulf, North Hinsdale, Old Chesterfield, etc as time permits on 8/16/22 at 2PM. John Z will draft evaluation criteria to consider.

BA noted that 2 years ago was terrible and was dry, while last year was not as bad and was wet. Gulf, Poocham and Old Swanzy were problems mentioned. Problems are often 800-900 foot sections. Castle was described as bad, where the use of fabric and ditching yielded good results.

Discussed increasing unpredictability of weather as our planet is warmed. We can't rely on past weather since it is changing, for example, regular late winter mud seasons were replaced with repeated freeze/thaw cycles causing multiple mud seasons the last two winters.

Next Meeting- 8/16/22 at 1:30 PM, with tour of several roads from 2-4 PM.

Adjourned at 1:10PM


11/2/22