

Report of the Fremont Highway Study Committee

The 2011 year was met head on with many new challenges for the Town of Fremont. As with most Towns across the State, funding sources continue to be reduced. The Selectmen chose to allocate funds into the Highway Budget to begin the much-needed process of repairing our roads. This came after the recommendation and research of the Highway Study Committee to determine the order of roads to be addressed.

Additionally this past year the Town Administrator put together a Bridge Engineering RFQ to obtain proposals from engineering firms for future bridge repairs. Currently the Town of Fremont has two bridges on the State of NH's Bridge Red list, meaning they are in need of repair or replacement. This includes the bridges at Martin Road Bridge over the Piscassic River and Scribner Road over the Exeter River. We received a dozen proposals from engineering firms. These proposals are being reviewed by the Committee over the next year to determine the scope of work needed.

The Committee put forth a request to the Selectmen to begin the funding for a Capital Reserve Fund to assist in planning for future bridge repairs. In the past, the State of New Hampshire has offset the repair cost by 80% reimbursement, the remaining 20% to come from individual Towns and Cities. The Committee believes that Fremont should plan and prepare for this in the coming years.

The Town cannot be put on the NH Bridge Aid waiting list without some money saved toward the purpose. At the present time, we would be on a waiting list for funding in 2019, if we are able to apply in 2012 (if the Capital Reserve for Bridges Warrant Article passes). The NH Bridge Aid Program, when fully funded by the State of NH, reimburses towns 80% of bridge engineering and construction costs, and could make far less of an impact on taxpayers for both of these projects, which will need to be done at some point. The State's preliminary estimates for these bridges are each over \$500,000. Saving now for the construction costs will help balance the effect of the necessary repairs.

The Committee continues to look at the need to purchase Town equipment, including a backhoe. The Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund was increased by \$20,000 by the 2011 Town Meeting vote. Funds had to be removed in 2011 to replace the aging one ton truck. That new truck will be in service in early 2012. The planning for future equipment purchases is still a focus of discussions.

The Committee worked with the Road Agent on formulation of a budget proposal for 2012, which showed a small increase over the 2011 default allocation. The Committee also presented to the Selectmen proposed amendments to the Town's Thru Trucking Ordinance; and presented a Frost Ban Ordinance for adoption. The Selectmen held a Public Hearing on both in July 2011. Both were adopted and can be found on the Town's website at www.Fremont.nh.gov. Beginning with the spring thaw in 2012, additional prohibitions are in

effect for trucking on Fremont roadways. This has been done to protect against further breakdown of roadways during this time of the year.

The Committee will continue to meet bi-monthly through 2012, generally on the last Monday of every other month. Please see scheduled meeting dates and times posted on the Towns Website. These meetings are open to the Public and the Committee encourages residents to attend. We thank the Board of Selectmen, the Budget Committee and the Public for their continued support. We anticipate that the New Year will bring additional savings and much needed road improvements to the Town of Fremont.

Respectfully submitted,

Highway Study Committee Members

Jack Downing

Mark Pitkin

Leon Holmes Jr.

Steve Harms

Greta St. Germain



Village Cemetery ~ Main Street
Photo Courtesy of Meredith Bolduc

“If you can find a path with no obstacles, it probably doesn’t lead anywhere.”

~ Frank A Clark