

**Town of Freedom
Forest Advisory Committee
Special Meeting
October 22, 2024, 6 pm at the Freedom Town Hall**

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm by Paul Elie. Present are: Paul Elie, James Guido, Ron Newbury, Dave George, Paul Elie, Yvonne Hoyt, Jeff Nicoll, Barry Keith, Gary Williams.

Bids for repair of Trout Pond Rd.

Barry Keith – distributed a summary of the bids received and explained the breakdown.

Dave George suggests that some gravel is needed further up the road from where the proposed work area is. Barry feels that this is an appropriate concept. Brooks total with additions is \$64,790.

RWM proposal – culvert section is substantially higher. Erosion control is comparable to Brooks bid if you include the additional loam and seed.

RWN – Riprap is an add on at \$50/ton, as is additional gravel at \$85/cy. Brooks additional gravel is also an add on, at \$32-36/cy.

Barry discussed possibilities that could occur in some jobs – such as blasting ledge, rain events that require more material to finish it off, soft ground areas.

Barry proposes not to look at doing anything this fall. Start in April.

Paul asked about upsizing the culverts to 18". Barry feels that the 15" will work, but would support upsizing to 18" for the additional cost, possibly go with 4 culverts instead of 5.

Would contractors want to bring in materials now to be able to work during mud season?

Barry supports the Brooks proposal with the add-ons – with 18" culverts and silt socks. All disturbed areas to be stabilized.

Jeff Nicoll – any sense of contingency amount to be considered? 10% is suggested by Barry.

James Guido – would like hydroseed.

Yvonne Hoyt – very pricey.

Dave – who will water the seeding if it doesn't rain? An overlay map listing culverts and areas of interest on all the trails would be helpful. Are roads inspected after the loggers leave to make sure there is no road damage? Barry explained that there is a bond for

that. Dave also asked if the Town is required to have the road accessible to the public. It is not a requirement, but it is open to the public.

Gary – praised Brooks’ work. Consider and use their extras.

Yvonne – likes the silt sock practice.

Jeff - \$71,269 if you add a 10% contingency with the Brooks bid. \$34,269 additional funds are needed.

James – can the contract be awarded before Town meeting?

Barry will research any grant monies that are available for trails.

There are permits required – wetlands permits for 2 of the culverts.

James made a motion to grant the award to Brooks with all the extras listed, \$64,790 plus 10% contingency. \$71,269 total. Yvonne seconded. APPROVED 5-0-0

Ron acknowledged and thanked RWN for taking the time to come down and bid so there could be a comparison.

Jeff appreciated the ability to do the comparison. Jeff will recommend to the FCC to send out thank you notes to both vendors. Does FAC have any specific recommendations, etc. to get back to the vendors on – e.g. purchasing culverts now before price changes, begin brush cutting this fall, 4 18” culverts as opposed to 5 culverts.

Ron made a motion to accept Barry’s recommendations on this. Discuss 4 vs. 5 culverts and discuss land clearing this fall, down payment. Gary seconded. APPROVED 5-0-0

Ron made a motion to adjourn at 7:25 pm, Gary seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa Donaldson
Recording Secretary