

Minutes from Public Hearing on reclassification of TH 45 (Old Stage Rd.) May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Present: John Benson, Selectboard Chair, Keith Sprague, Laura Rochat, Curtis Koren, Stuart Edson, Selectboard members; Don & Tamara West, Linda Park, Steve Hill, abutting property owners.

Hearing was called to order at 6:30 pm.

Selectboard Chair Benson outlined the procedure as to public evidentiary hearing, followed by closed deliberative session of the Selectboard. Hearing will then be recessed until 6:15 pm May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024 for final decision.

Edson read the formal warning as follows:

“The Brookfield Selectboard is proposing to reclassify the following section of road from ‘Unclassified’ to ‘Trail’:

- 0.27 miles of Old Stage Road (TH 45), starting 0.27 miles west of its intersection with Ridge Road, beginning at the end of the current Class 4 section of TH 45 and ending at the Interstate 89 Right of Way.

The purpose of this reclassification is to establish and verify classification of this section of road so as not to landlock existing parcels of land. No change to the maintenance or existing condition of this roadway is proposed as a part of the reclassification.”

Edson mentioned that emails had been received from all three property owners present that their preference is to have TH 45 classified as Class 4 to the West’s second driveway rather than Trail to the I-89 ROW.

Don West stated that it was his wish to have TH 45 classified as Class 4 to his second driveway, stating concerns for access to his camp by emergency vehicles.

Steve Hill asked for a description of the difference between a Class 4 road and a Trail. Benson explained that it is the town’s responsibility to maintain a Class 4 as passible, but not year round, while a Trail does not need to be maintained.

Don West stated that he would like a gate put up at his property line.

Steve Hill asked if both the Class 4 and Trail would maintain a 3 rod right of way, confirmed by Benson.

Linda Park stated that she was in agreement to have TH 45 classified as Class 4 to the West’s second driveway.

Benson asked Don West if it was his intention to become a year-round resident at his camp at some point, confirmed by Don West.

Steve Hill asked if a bank would give a loan to property only accessed by a Trail, Benson replied that would be up to the lending institution.

Don West also stated that having TH 45 classified as Class 4 to his second driveway would allow for a better place for vehicles to turn around, noting that the current end of Class 4 does not have a place to turn around.

Motion was made by Benson to recess hearing until 6:15, Monday May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024, seconded by Edson, passed unanimously 5-0-0.

Hearing recessed at 6:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted.

Stuart Edson  
Selectboard