

BLACKSTRAP ROAD FEEDBACK

September 11, 2019

1. 8/26 e-mail: Susanne Hanchett

We are taking our time off from Sept. 4th to 16th. Lee and I (the Hanchetts) are very sorry to miss the Public Forum. We will read what we can down-load and hope the meeting will be televised so we can view it when we get home.

Response Theo: Hi Susanne and Lee: Thank you. Yes, the meeting will be recorded. I will also post the presentation afterwards. I hope you have a good trip.

2. 8/26 e-mail + 8/29 phone call: Lisa Clement

We live at 110 Brook Road. Can you give us an overview of the long range planning? We are not sure if we will be able to attend the meeting.

What are the issues? Interested in sidewalk extension near Hamlin Road.

Response Theo: Work is focused on 4 miles that are MaineDOT responsibility. Those are on northern end of Blackstrap. Provided website link for public feedback at first forum.

9/2 email: Lisa Clement

Thanks so much for the call re: the update on Blackstrap Road.

As you know we have a sidewalk on Brook Road extending from Blackstrap to Leighton which gets lots of use and we are grateful for that.

As you may or may not know we have a real neighborhood with those who live on Hamlin and it has been that way for many years.

It would be wonderful if the town would put a sidewalk on Blackstrap from Brook to Hamlin Road so that everyone would have a safe way to exercise as it makes a great loop with a bit or cardio with the hill. This is especially appreciated for our kids and elderly.

Thank you so much. I have copied a few of our neighbors who may choose to weigh in with their support.

Response Theo: Thanks, Lisa. I will share this with the project team.

3. 8/29 phone call from Kate Collins, The Forecaster

Response Theo: Explained project, its history, and work completed.

9/3 story: <https://www.pressherald.com/2019/09/03/falmouth-seeks-input-on-blackstrap-road-fixes/>

4. 9/11 e-mail from Gale and Jim Hawkes

Sorry we cannot attend tonight's meeting, due to illness. We wanted to share that we use Blackstrap Road every day as our home is located very near the Babbidge Road, Blackstrap Road intersection. We would like to suggest the following:

1. Blackstrap Road should be basically kept as a country road with the current low speed of 35 miles per hour.
2. Blackstrap Road needs to be wider and side of the road tarred to accommodate bicycles and pedestrians.
3. No legal passing allowed on Blackstrap Road in Falmouth. The only allowed legal passing (by dotted lines in the road) is by Happy Cats business but because it is a connecting intersection for 2 conservation lands and is frequently used for off road biking, parking on the sides of roads by motor vehicles, and also is a snowmobilers crossing, this legal passing spot should be eliminated.

Hopefully you will consider our recommendations. Thank you.

Response Theo: I am sorry that you do not feel well, but appreciate you writing to me. I will share your comments with the project team.

5. 9/15 E-mail from Michael Vance

Nice work on the presentation on Wednesday, I thought it was very well put together. Left field governance question that is mostly curiosity: if the State isn't able to match funding, is the Town permitted by law to perform the work without their involvement? And beyond that, does the Town have any recourse to find the State negligent if they fail to fund? Would the Town have to sue the State or similar?

Response Nathan Poore:

You raise great questions. The Town could take on any percentage, up to 100%, of the funding if state funding is not available. The state can be held responsible but only if it does not warn motorists of areas where personal property damage and/or possible personal injury is eminent. Essentially, it could completely deteriorate to a point where it is broken pavement and gravel that only supports speeds of 5MPH. So long as the state warns motorists of the condition, there is no legal liability for the state. The Town has no recourse and could not sue the state.

6. 9/21 E-mail from Doug Cooper

Thank you and Nathan for listening. And thank you so much for paving the section of Blackstrap north of Mountain Road. It will make my early morning runs and bicycle commuting much more pleasant. I am thrilled at the prospect of paved shoulders!

Response Theo Holtwijk: Thank you, Doug. We appreciate the feedback. I have shared it with our Public Works Director.

7. 9/23 Call from Janice Beinema, 373 Blackstrap, 878-8916

Concerned with current construction which is leaving oily mess on cars and lawn.

Response Theo Holtwijk: I am sorry for the trouble that you are experiencing. I have forwarded your message to Jay Reynolds, the Town's Public Works Director, as that department deals with construction issues. The contractor works for the Town. Jay can better assess the nature of the problem and what can be done about it. Jay will call you back.