Maine Abandoned and Discontinued Roads Commission October 27, 2022

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance: Corp. Kris Maccabe, John Monk, Catherine Nadeau, Karla Black, Roberta Manter, Jim Katsiaficas, Vivian Mikhail, Peter Coughlan, Rebecca Graham, Ryan Pelletier (via Zoom), Steve Young (via zoom)

Absent: Brian Bronson

The meeting was called to order by Vivian Mikhail at approximately 1:00 pm. A roll call was conducted of the members present.

Discussion of the October 7, 2022 minutes, which Vivian previously had circulated for Commission members' review. Motion to accept the minutes was made by John Monk, seconded by Roberta Manter.

Election of Commission Chair- Jim Katsiaficas was nominated by Peter Coughlan, seconded by Catherine Nadeau. Unanimous vote in favor of Jim's service as Chair.

Discussion on how to inform public- Vivian Mikhail suggested MailChimp with the ability to reach 500 followers and with the ability to attach meeting notices, agendas, recordings and zoom links to it.

Avenues to distribute notices, etc: D.O.T. website, IF&W, MMA

Roberta mentioned Google search: if you put in "abandoned roads" it brings you to her website: maineroadways.blogspot.com (where people who have problems with these roads often find themselves when they search for "abandoned roads Maine" or "discontinued roads Maine" online). That, therefore, might be a good place to post meeting notices.

Steve Young: Radio or TV for Northern Maine whereas a lot do not have computers or access to them; also the U Maine System can do informational notes attached to their website.

Jim: what do other commissions do for invites?

the committee of jurisdiction = State and Local

7 to Rebecca: can MMA send an E mail blast to towns and possibly E Newsletter. YES but deadline was October 20

7 days' notice for participation from now on

Peter Coughlan - Mail Chimp using MMA, Roadways, Landowners (SWOAM) Upper St.John River.com ($25/mon to host)

Steve Young- Upperst.johnriver.com, Asgars Fjordor Ark Map (Geographical Information)

Jim: Who is in charge of Maine.gov = O.1.T

Kris Maccabe says he will check into using the Landowner Relations Page of IF&W Steve Young - Printed copies to Towns to distribute

Ryan Pelletier- Our mission is to streamline, establish a subcommittee to clarify the gray areas of the Roads Law/Adapt to include subcommittee to be subject to Freedom of Access

Final report to be submitted February 1, 2023 discussion: 2A of Law DUTIES

Property Owner Liability, Public Easement retention over an abandoned or discontinued road, Statutory terminology related to abandoned or discontinued road, Statutory process for the abandonment or discontinuation of a road,

2B - Owners of property that abuts abandoned or discontinued road, Owners of property accessible only by traveling over an abandoned or discontinued road, Recreational users of an

abandoned or discontinued road, Members ofthe Public, Municipal, County or State government, the physical integrity of an abandoned or discontinued road and surrounding road

Steve Young - Get Info out to Northern Maine

report due February 1, 2023 and then annually thereafter

Roberta - news media involvement may be a suggestion Rebecca - Key topic - outreach

Vivian- look into the murkiness of the law

Jim - to get on the same page need to identify the definitions as follows: Discontinuance,

Abandonment, Paper Street

title 23 (municipality) Title 29A

Title 33 - Landowner

Private Way- Historically used by farmers to get their items to towns with use of gates and bars; town has passage

Mention of the Kennebec Land Trust

To be taken up in the December Meeting:

List of concerns/issues involving roads (3 or 4 issues) Rank the issues

Public Comments

Reach out to stakeholders

Between December and January : Subcommittees to look at Stakeholders and determine results January meetings : January 11 2023 - policy direction

January 25 2023 - report out findings/adopt report

Concerns of landowners who live on abandoned/discontinued roads and will have the ability to maintain road and the expenses incurred

Recap:

Nov. - Road Law/ issues (3 or 4 issues); Jim will present a half hour primer on road law, and Roberta will present the top issues ROADWays members have with these roads.

Dec - identify stakeholders subcommittee to meet policy direction

adapt report

Jan. - Draft Form Report Final Draft

Feb - Progress Form/Report

Next meeting - November 17, 2022 - 1 to 4 pm - room 214

Roberta- link to Hancock registry of deeds : handcockcountydeeds.com/pdfs/discontinued-roads-sm.pdf Motion to adjourn: Rebecca Graham, Kris Maccabe seconded