
Horace Cross Roads Committee Meeting

Date: June 29, 2025

Time: 10:00 AM - 10:30 am.

Location: 86 Horace Cross.

Attendance

Members Present: Emily Duncan, Amy Whiting, Hope MacLean, Julie Cote, Tanya Hill, Ruth Salmon, Ron Hill, Monique Lariviere, Jim Prozeller, Gary Cole, Andrew Fairbairn, Harry Musson, Doug Forster, Bruno Roy, Justin Unsworth, Louise de la Gorgendière, Lucy Cole, Dawn Cooper.

Called to order: 10:00 am

Reports

Treasurer's Report (Presented by Doug Forster)

- **Membership:** This year we have 39 paying members (down 1 from last year, but it's typical to range between 39-41 paying members).
 - **Road Fees:** Fees remained at \$350 per household in 2025, covering gravel, grading, plowing, and general maintenance.
 - **Financial Status:** Spent approximately \$1500 more than what was collected this year, but the roads account retains a healthy balance so there is currently no major concern. The association generally breaks even annually.
 - **Current Expenditures:** \$5000 already spent this year on grading and five loads of gravel, which will be applied to next year's budget.
 - **Fee Increase:** With increasing maintenance and materials cost, a \$25 fee increase to \$375 per household was proposed. **This increase was approved unanimously.**
 - **Payment Method:** E-transfer is the preferred method for fee collection. Ensure you have a current email address on the association contact list.
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Roads Update (Presented by Andrew Fairbairn)

- **Annual Improvements:** Five loads of gravel and grading completed on Horace Cross. Ditching completed from the North side of Ch. Brian to Horace Cross, along with some gravel application to help crown the road and divert water to the ditch.

- **Gravel Application:** Requested approval for **annual application of five loads of gravel and grading going forward** due to the road's clay composition and ongoing maintenance requirements. **Request approved unanimously.**
 - **Plowing Contract:** Tentatively in place with a verbal contract with Chris Larose, with no cost increases for the upcoming year. Official contract will be signed ASAP.
 - **Emergency Maintenance:** Patrick, Ron, Dominic, Julie, and Andrew performed 6 hours of emergency maintenance to prevent road washout near the culvert in front of Ron's driveway and on the corner of Ch. Brian and Horace Cross due to flash runoff. New gravel has significantly reduced the need for road maintenance in these areas.
 - **Beaver Issues:** Beavers are blocking the culvert by the highway, causing swamp levels to rise, leading to sinkholes and fallen trees blocking the road. Volunteers are needed to unblock the grate.
 - **Beaver Deceiver Discussion:** Hope suggested installing a beaver deceiver in the swamp and will seek assistance from David Frere. She believes this may be a more effective long-term solution. It was cautioned that the culvert runs from the swamp under Michele Bertrand's yard to the lake. Ron suggested simply cleaning the grate periodically.
 - **Culvert Locations:** Three main culverts were noted, including near mailboxes, between lakes, in front of Ron's, and at the access between Gary and Harry.
 - **Property Owner Consultation:** Emphasized the importance of consulting property owners before taking any action.
 - **Proposed Solution and Action Item:** The "Beaver Committee" investigates and proposes a solution.
 - **Action Item: Hope will pursue this.**
 - **Tree & Branch Clearing Required:** A reminder that property owners are responsible for clearing branches from their road frontage. The idea of a volunteer tree-clearing party was raised, with concerns about participation.
 - **Action Item: A call for volunteers to assist with this task is suggested.**
 - **Reporting Problem Trees to Hydro Quebec:** Hydro Quebec will clear trees on power lines if a picture is submitted to them.
 - **Action Item: the link on how to file a report with Hydro Quebec**
<https://www.hydroquebec.com/sefco2015/en/informing-hq-vegetation-close-power-lines.html>
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Elections

- **Volunteer Position (Horace Cross Roads Manager):** Andrew, again, expressed a desire to transition out of his role as Volunteer Roads Manager if someone was willing to take it on. No volunteers. **Andrew will remain in the role, with Justin assisting him.**

Other Business (Roads)

- **Plow Wing Concerns:** Ron requested that Chris (the plowing contractor) avoid using the large wing on the payloader due to concerns about property damage. Other members agreed. Hope advised moving fences back from the road. Ron highlighted the narrowness of the road and suggested exploring other solutions.
- **Speeding Concerns:** Michel Bertrand expressed strong concern about vehicle speed on the road.
- **Right-of-Way:** The issue of who has the right-of-way when driving was discussed and was generally deemed to be common sense based on the location where vehicles meet. A suggestion was made to install a "one-lane" road sign to clarify expectations.

Adjournment: 10:37 AM