

Royalton Township Board of Supervisors Road Inspection Minutes  
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29 April 2024  
Approved

The annual road inspection began at 10:00 a.m., Monday, 29 April 2024, with Chair Jeff Schlaeger, Supervisor John Graham, Supervisor Pete Belland, Road Superintendent Dan Saumer, and Clerk Duane Swanson participating. Notice of this inspection had been published and posted according to law.

Using the attached spreadsheet, originally drafted by Road Superintendent Saumer, the delegation toured each of the 27.0 miles of township roads. Chair Schlaeger drove, starting with an odometer reading of 32,257. The main purpose of the road inspection was to review the roads for which the township is responsible. Special attention was paid to the condition and need for culverts, ditching, brushing, tree removal, and graveling. The inspection also included a review of properties that had potential zoning issues, particularly excessive amounts of disabled vehicles, garbage, or those that had exhibited previous issues. All roads, regardless of jurisdictional oversight, were reviewed for the zoning concerns.

The attached road notes delineate extended issues regarding specific roads. In general, it was determined that no brushing would be done in 2024, breaking the every other year cycle that has been in place for several years. With the possible exception of Raspberry Road South, no roads showed sufficient growth to warrant brushing in 2024. Superintendent Saumer will continue to monitor this issue and report any significant change during the year. Roads requiring graveling, or on schedule to be graveled in 2024, are Royalton Road North, Hazelnut Road, Bluebell Road, Clover Lane, and Majestic Road (east and west). Superintendent Saumer reported that Hummingbird Road, scheduled to be graveled in 2025, has degraded sufficiently to warrant new gravel in 2024; the board tentatively concurred. Superintendent Saumer also indicated that Carlson Lane (scheduled to be graveled in 2025) was in very poor condition; the board will consider this option. In addition, the following were potential spot-graveling points: turnarounds on Eagle Lane (one load), Acorn Drive (one load), Robin Drive, and Bear Claw Drive, and potentially one load in new turnaround on Sage Drive to prepare for construction of the turnaround in 2025.

Preliminary conclusions support the following culvert decisions: On Hazelnut Road, two existing culverts are approaching the end of their useful life. Replacing them will be expensive (\$8,000 per culvert for four-foot culverts); the board determined to monitor them this year and reconsider at next year's inspection. Install a 15" culvert east of 1605 Royal Heights Lane and

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potentially a 40' culvert on the south side. Installation of an 18" x 26' culvert north of Gary Howard's on Eagle Lane was recommended. It was also the consensus of the board to take and retain in the office a running inventory of the culverts currently on hand. Additional monitoring of culverts on Homer Road near 11849 will occur with the possibility of replacing two smaller culverts with a single 24" one.

Ditching recommendations include: approximately 200-300 yards near 5789 Hummingbird Road; approximately 100 feet to the east of 1605 Royal Heights Lane; approximately 100 yards to the east of the new culvert on Country Drive (north side); and approximately 100 yards south of Belland's driveway on Church Road (east side). Further discussion with landowners about ditching on Grasston Court is another recommendation. The board declined to recommend the following: ditching near Gary Howard's on the east side of Eagle Lane; Raspberry Road North by Saumers (but continue to monitor), and Clover Lane north of Dan Szczech's second driveway.

Additional tree cutting opportunities were noted on Bears Ear Road (Clerk Swanson will research the plat to determine ownership of turnaround) and Royal Heights Lane. Road Superintendent Saumer was tasked with removing a dying tree overhanging Apple Road near 8973 and with removing brush from the turnaround area on Sage Drive.

The board reviewed signage throughout the township, recognizing that the town does not have a comprehensive sign policy. Dead end signs were particularly reviewed with the following recommended for replacement: Eagle Lane, Bears Ear Road, Maple Shores Drive, Acorn Drive, and Majestic Road West. Generally, the stop ahead signs were determined to be okay for now, except for the signs at the north end of Raspberry Road North and the west end of Timber Drive. Discussion on replacing the intersection sign at Robin and Eagle was inconclusive. After consideration, the board determined not to immediately replace the entrance signs noting building permits required, except for the one at the intersection of Farming and Elmcrest. There was a recommendation to replace the left turn sign on Timber Drive and to straighten the "arrows" sign at Apple and Raspberry South.

In other road matters: The board met with landowners Kevin McFerran and Gary Folkestad to discuss options for Road T-13; it was agreed that this issue should be forwarded to Royalton's legal counsel for recommendation on the simplest way to remove township responsibility for maintenance while continuing to ensure accessibility to back parcels. This continues the discussion began with then-Chair Marshall Pearson. On Cabin Drive, the board approved the request of Kyle Bowman to chloride in front of his property. The board noted the town-owned strip of land going north from Cabin that is currently being used as a driveway. Superintendent

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Saumer was authorized to discuss with landowners at the west end of 540th Street the possible change of mailbox locations to make the turnaround easier to navigate.

During the road inspection, several properties were found to have more abandoned or junked vehicles than permitted by the town's ordinances, potential blight issues, or possible health and safety violations. These issues will be reviewed by the board after codification and study by the office.

At 3:30 p.m., the road inspection concluded, with Supervisor Schlaeger's odometer reading 32,350.

Respectfully submitted,

Duane P. Swanson, Clerk

Jeff Schlaeger, Chair/Supervisor

John Graham, Vice Chair/Supervisor

Pete Belland, Supervisor