

Royalton Township Board of Supervisors Road Inspection Minutes
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28 April 2025
Approved

The annual road inspection began at 10:10 a.m., Monday, 28 April 2025, 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 35,125. 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 town roads. In general, brushing is needed on all roads in 2025, scheduled for August. Roads requiring graveling, or on schedule to be graveled in 2025, are Royal Heights Lane, Bayberry Road, Carlson Lane, Church Road, Timber Drive, and Sage Drive. In addition, the following were potential spot-graveling points: Pine Bough Road over low spot and Raspberry Road South (4 loads) over low spot. In addition, the turnaround on Sage Drive is scheduled to be constructed.

Preliminary conclusions support the following culvert and ditching recommendations: Replace or lower a driveway culvert at 4441 Buffalo Road (Martin's) and ditch both sides; it appears that the existing driveway culvert for 4503 Buffalo Road (Antonson's) is completely on private property and may not be the township's responsibility. Replace the two existing driveway culverts at 11849 Homer Road with one 24" culvert. Additional culvert possibilities include a cross culvert under Bluebell to drain the east side and installation of a 15" x 40' culvert about 100 feet north of 6149 Hummingbird. Consider recommending remedial work to clear out the ends of culverts at 2614 540th Street (Thyng's) and at 6051 Royalton Road on Majestic Road West (Neels'/Wirth's) or replace the culvert. Continue monitoring the situation on Hazelnut Road, where two culverts are nearing the end of their usefulness. Consider ditching approximately 100 yards to the north of Josh Johnson's on the west side of Bluebell Road. Continue discussions about the situation at 4694 Hummingbird Road (Fleischhacker's). The newly installed (by owner) driveway culvert is not working properly and needs to be reset. Consider the installation of at least one culvert across Hummingbird in the vicinity. Consider additional ditching at 5789 Hummingbird Road (Douse's) to amplify the work done there in

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2024, with the possible replacement of the driveway culvert. Consider additional ditching on Country Drive after electrical and cable lines are potentially moved. Consider additional ditching on the west side of Raspberry Road North approximately 100 yards south from Steve Saumer's driveway. Consider ditching on east side of Church Road south of Belland's.

No tree cutting was recommended for 2025. However, it was recommended that a letter be sent to the owners of 9842 Riverbed Lane noting that their newly-planted trees are in the road right-of-way and need to be moved.

The board reviewed signage throughout the township, recognizing that the town does not have a comprehensive sign policy. Particular attention was paid to the recommendations of the 2011 sign study and Superintendent Saumer's newly-created sign inventory. Dead end signs were recommended for 540th Street West (east end), Mystic Dove Drive, Frost Drive, Bear Claw Drive, and Country Drive. Stop ahead signs were recommended for Apple Road (east end), Hummingbird Road (both north and south ends), Hazelnut Road (north end), Raspberry Road (south end) and possibly Pine Bough Road (north End) with replacement stop ahead sign for Majestic Road East (east end). Additional recommendations include replacing the yield sign on Homer with a stop sign and replacing numerous curve signs on Apple Road with winding road signs. The stop ahead sign on the north end of Church Road needs straightening.

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. The board noted the deplorable condition of parts of Royal River Road, especially near the washed-out culvert. This road is not a township road, but the board questioned if a special assessment on property owners would be a possibility to upgrade it. No recommendations or decisions were forthcoming.

At 3:30 p.m., the road inspection concluded, with Chair Schlaeger's odometer reading 35,213.

Respectfully submitted,

Duane P. Swanson, Clerk

Jeff Schlaeger, Chair/Supervisor

John Graham, Vice Chair/Supervisor

Pete Belland, Supervisor