

Lebanon, Maine
SELECT BOARD WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
Milton, N.H.
Public Meeting at Nute High School sponsored by the Milton Select Board
Minutes –Meeting
Saturday, December 9, 2023

Paul Philbrick – Chairman
Shelli Boucher – Selectwoman **Excused**
Michael Walsworth - Vice Chair **Excused**
Richard Harlow III – Selectman **Excused**
Kevin Edwards – Selectman **Excused**

Topic: Replacement bridge for New Bridge Road, Lebanon, Maine to connect to neighboring NH.
11:00 AM

Milton Select Board opened the Public Meeting

New Hampshire Department of Transportation presented 3 options for the replacement bridge.
Option 1 – had the most effect on the roadway, adjacent property owners, and the marina. This option does not affect the waterway.

Option 2- had a lesser effect on the roadway, adjacent property owners, and the marina. This option does place a support column in the waterway.

Option 3 – same effect as option 2. This option does place 2 support columns in the waterway.
Note: the maximum boat clearance using either of these three options is 5 ½ feet. The previous bridge clearance was 4 ½ feet. However, there was much discussion that the water level has changed since that bridge was in place and the water level of the lake runs approximately a foot higher than it did back at that time.

Potential start date for the bridge, if everything went off without a hitch, would be 2026 as of today.

Milton Select Board Chair opened the meeting up for comments.
There were three major concerns presented by both the public attending and the Milton Select Board.
Boat clearance under the bridge. 7 feet clearance is the desired height to accommodate today's boats.
Properties affected. Option 1 and any other option to increase the clearance height creates additional property issues. Possible need to purchase adjacent properties to allow the required road reconstruction. Possible need to modify the marina boat launch and move existing building/fuel station.
Costs. Increase cost of the overall project to purchase property rights and make the modifications of the marina along with the additional road work expense.

There was a large percentage of those in attendance that supported not to replace the bridge and leave it an open water way as it now stands. There was great concern that if the larger boats cannot go under the bridge, property values will suffer on the water front properties, which will decrease the resale & tax values of the properties.

NH and Maine DOT addressed and answered the public's questions.

NH DOT will be hosting in the future a meeting similar to Milton's Public Meeting. The residents of both Lebanon and Milton will be notified of this meeting by mail.

NH DOT and Maine DOT working with the Select Boards will identify the replacement bridge to be installed. Once this is accomplished the permitting process begins. It was stated that NEPA (National Environmental Protection Agency) has the final say on the bridge design to be used based on the environmental impact of the bridge design. If the design chosen by the towns is different than what NEPA will accept, then it is back to repeating the process.

Milton Select Board informed the Milton residents in attendance that there will be a question on the ballot addressing the replacement bridge. The question could be about the bridge design, increase cost to the Town, or the no-build option.

1:00 PM

Milton Select Board adjourned the meeting.