



Meeting Minutes - Draft

Call to order by Mark Pearson

A meeting of DHRID Advisory Committee was held at Zoom on September 28, 2021

Attendees

Committee Members Present: Mark Pearson, Tom Hill, Alan Shupe, Matthew Juntunen, Dan Featheringill, Nicole Baillis, and Matt Jacobson.

Visitors: Genie Shupe, Jim & Suzanne Bolton, Mary & Steve Rogers, Hilary Ladin, Sue & Paul from 919 Silver Mesa, and Nisia Patalan.

for brevity, I refer to Matthew Juntunen as Matthew, and to Matthew Jacobson as Matt. Apologies if I put any words in the wrong mouth - Genie Shupe

Approval of minutes

Minutes of June 2021 meeting were reviewed. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes, and they were approved by voice vote. Matt asked about minutes and Mark mentioned the website for records of meetings. Mark added an agenda item to discuss the traffic counters. Genie Shupe agreed to continue to take notes and provide minutes, though not a board member.

Reports & Discussions

Summer maintenance discussion - for the benefit of new members and visitors, Mark reviewed the summer procedures and asked for discussion.

Matthew said he was not sure what was actually done on Sagebrush; he thought it was not what was planned and that it's all in the worst shape ever. Dan pointed out that no mag chloride was used on Sagebrush, so all the dirt was dried up and gone. Nisia mentioned that the upper portion of Sagebrush was not done. Tom said that the rain was a problem - the ditch above the bus house filled up with the rain between grading and mag application. Matt mentioned an area where some large rocks were dumped on Nusbaum. Alan and Dan talked with the belly dump driver on the second day; he was delivering all 33 loads of gravel and had to be done by Saturday so he could go on vacation. The road was not prepped properly before the gravel was spread; if washboards are not properly done, the road will not hold. Mark said he would discuss with Kurt. Alan said the bill includes \$1300 for ditch work which he thought had not been done. Nicole & Matthew said they saw some ditch work being done. Matt commented that June seems late for summer maintenance. Mark explained that the schedule depends on the availability of ditch water and mag chloride dates; it is always a balancing act between the \$\$ in the budget, the schedule, and needs of different areas.

Fall Maintenance. Per Mark there was \$10,000 left in the budget. Waldo's work order was similar to 2020 fall work; labor \$7500 and mag chloride \$2500 for a total of \$10,283. No road base. Work was to start "next week" with mag coming the week of 10/11. Motion made, seconded, and the above was approved. Suzanne Bolton asked about the washboards below their house.

New Budget - The new county budget folks want committee input first. The fund balance is typically \$175,000.(must be equal to two years revenue). Mark gave an explanation of the county requirements for the fund relative to yearly revenue and how mill levies must be reduced to balance increases in valuations. District expenditures are for snow removal, summer and fall maintenance, and county administration fees. The snow contract is \$20,700, a fixed price including the grader parked in the district so our roads are plowed first, before other areas. \$5000 is budgeted in case of a contingency. Matt asked if there is a time component required in the contract. Mark explained the mechanics of notifying the driver that they need to come plow; since the current driver lives near Dolores, it takes some time to get here. Alan pointed out that it can snow a lot in a very short time.

Mark also explained that the district has a contingency fund that is really for emergencies, and has never been spent. For example, if we don't spend the \$5000 snow contingency item, it is added to the fund balance. The money can sometimes be used for special projects, but it takes a while to get it back.

Future possible work - to widen the road in front of Marsha Pfeiffer's house, a survey would be required per Jim Davis (county road and bridge director). Matthew will ask his friend about the cost of a survey. Tom wondered about where the idea originated. Mark says that Waldo's input brought it up. Dan said that Waldo has a hard time working that area due to the higher traffic and the size of his trucks. The subject came up during a drive-around.

Draft budget - Tom and Dan moved and seconded to approve; all in favor. Paul said his thanks to the board members and the group for the efforts.

Old business

Mark got approval to spend money for a new sign at the beginning of the district. Tom has been working on a proposal for a new sign with similar wording, but with the important parts given more emphasis and easier to read. Matt thought the sign placement was not ideal and suggested a colored background might be better for improved visibility. Matthew was to check to see if a reflective background is available and agreed on the location issue. Mark said that the placement as close as possible to the beginning of the district was thought best to catch attention; it is on a piece of land owned by Nicole and Nathan. Matthew was to talk to Terry about high contrast lettering; Tom and Matt are to work together on the sign project; the cost estimate is \$4-500 for a sign that should last 25 years (no Plexiglas). Mark said the sign can be ordered and invoiced to DHRID.

Discussion about a speed limit - should it be on the sign? Mark suggests the order of the 3 major points should emphasize the most important message. Nicole asked about parking on the roadway and where it is a problem. Mark explained that sometimes residents or workers get

stuck and just park where they are, or sometimes just pull into wide spots. Nicole suggested the one large sign may not add value when there were not additional signs in the district. Matt would like to see a nicer sign saying “Durango Hills.” Dan pointed out that are several subdivisions making up the district. Tom mentioned that Amazon has inexpensive signs such as “slow down, sharp curve” etc that sell for \$15-\$40 each; to be considered for the future. Tom will bring ideas for the next meeting for location, pricing, and costs. A motion was made to consider and approve some version of additional signage for speed limits and caution-type signs. The state statutes recommend 20 mph for steep roadways, per Tom and Matthew. All voted in favor of a further presentation with refinements.

New business

Emergency egress from upper areas. Matthew talked to Edgemont; they would potentially work on improvements to allow emergency egress from Durango Hills to Edgemont near the water tank. Pending a walkthrough, Edgemont approval and a simple agreement between the entities - details to be worked out. Mark and Matthew said there is an existing “road” that would need to be improved. Alan pointed out that the county would probably need to approve, and thought it is a great idea.

Tom said there is also an existing road at 937 Durango Road; Robert Farrell owns adjoining properties in the two subdivisions (Baby Bear). Farrell’s concern is that it could possibly be used for non-emergency purposes. Tom is to explore; possibly another agreement could be done. Mark is to check with the county to see about the requirements for such agreements.

Traffic Counters - Alan explained that the county places the counters as a courtesy to the district. This time they agreed to put out one more to see actual Forest Service access traffic. In the past they were only left for three days, so this one-week period will be more accurate and is ok’d by Jim Davis. The report should be available in 2-3 week. The previous reports are on the website. Tom had hoped for a discussion about allocating resources and suggested additional sites for the counters in the future. Mark will add this subject for a future discussion item.

Website ownership - needs to be transitioned from Richard’s website; general agreement that ideally the county should host the website for continuity. Nicole will pursue this and feels that it should be pretty simple. If not the county, there are other domain hosting options. Mark will find out who Nicole should talk to at the county.

Announcements

Election of officers - since Richard Woodbury has moved from the district, his position as vice chair is open. Mark suggested Tom; Alan nominated Dan due to his interest and experience in the district as well as architectural and contracting fields. Tom withdrew in favor of Dan and seconded the nomination; Dan was elected as Vice Chair by acclamation.

Visitor comments

Hilary - wants to see more on the Durango Hills FaceBook page and suggested a “refresher course” on winter driving. Alan suggests that neighbors talk to their newer neighbors about challenges of winter driving. Matthew said there are always some who do not listen; can the district call a tow truck? Matthew will do a PSA on FaceBook; will try to get the message across in a helpful way. Alan suggested contacting the sheriff’s office to establish a contact there.

Adjournment

Mark moved to adjourn the meeting and have another meeting in January. Alan seconded. Voice approval.

Secretary

Date of approval