

DPW – HIGHWAY DISCONTINUANCES RSA 231:43

MEETING DATE: 1/12/26

REQUESTED BY: ADAM JACOBS – DPW DIRECTOR

ISSUE:

Discussion of possible warrant article(s) for March 2026 Town Meeting to discontinue or partially discontinue several street sections.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Town, via DPW, maintains several smaller “farm roads” and other dead-end street segments that serve only 1 or 2 houses. These may appear to be private driveways in many cases. Some achieved public status by “implied acceptance” after several years of town plowing or other maintenance. Others were affirmed by Town vote or may have been accepted by the Select Board at some point.

While the residents of these street segments enjoy a benefit of Town maintenance, the benefit to the general public is negligible. The maintenance burden for the Town outweighs this limited public benefit. At the 12/22/25 meeting, the Board asked me to compile information about each proposed street segment for further discussion and possible warrant article(s).

The street segments in question are:

- **Saunders Road** – from Story Road to the end
- **Story/Old Story Road** – From Saunders Road to the end
- **Martin Farm Road** – From Pattee Hill Road/Rte 13 to the end
- **Up-A-Way Farm Road** – From Pattee Hill Road/Rte 13 to the end
- **Naser Place** – From Gorham Pond Road to the end
- **Worthley Hill Rd/Mountain Trolley Farm Road** – From Mountain Base Road to the class 6
- **Welch Lane** – From Shirley Hill Road to the end
- **Roberts Farm Road** – From Addison Road to the end, including the class 6 portion
- **French & Rising/Clint Rising Way** – From Prospect Street to South Mast Street

Detailed information about each, and abutting parcels, is attached. I have verified with the Tax Collection, Assessor, Police and Fire Chiefs, and Conservation Commission member David Nieman that there are no major concerns or pending actions for the related areas.

I am recommending full discontinuance in some cases, which will cease the public’s right to viatic use of the road. In other cases, particularly where there are multiple affected parcels or where a

parcel might be landlocked, I am recommending discontinuance “subject to gates and bars”, which downgrades the road to a Class 6 public road, maintaining the public right to viatic use but alleviating the maintenance burden from the taxpayers.

Should the Board decide to move forward with the discontinuance process, abutter notifications would be mailed out this week to meet the deadline prior to deliberative session.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Significant savings to the public over time, with fewer lane miles of paved and gravel roads to maintain year round including plowing, salting/sanding, drainage repairs, pothole patching, grading, tree cutting, and roadside mowing.

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend placing a warrant article on the March 2026 ballot to FULLY DISCONTINUE sections of the following roads as presented: Saunders Road, Naser Place, Welch Lane, Roberts Road, and Clint Rising Way.

Recommend placing a warrant article on the March 2026 ballot to DISCONTINUE, SUBJECT TO GATES AND BARS, sections of the following roads as presented: Story/Old Story Rd, Martin Farm Road, Up-A-Way Farm Road, and Worthley Hill Rd/Mountain Trolley Farm Road.

ATTACHMENTS:

- RSA 231:43
- Street information sheets
- Aerial map and intersection photos
- Excerpts – NH Municipal Association Publications “A Hard Road To Travel” and “Knowing The Territory”