

Swasey Parkway Trustee Meeting, February 3, 2022

Public Comment

I am here to thank you for your service as Trustees. I was able to attend at least two of the joint meetings that you held with the SelectBoard. At the most recent meeting both Dwane Staples and Darius Thompson stated that they were not in favor of closing the Parkway road. I was pleased to hear that the majority of this board is in favor of supporting the language of the Trust: to keep the Parkway open to pleasure vehicles.

I was disappointed that the Select Board felt compelled to put a poorly drafted warrant article on the ballot in spite of the Trustees being very clear in their majority position to keep it open. Despite what may seem like a discussion that has been going on for a long time, in fact this warrant article has not received solid vetting through much needed public hearings and publicity. As you know, the NH Charitable Trusts will need to take a position on this as will the NH Probate Courts. No details of how that could play out was ever discussed in any of the meetings.

It is far too simplistic for town leadership to say that we need to leave it to the will of the people to decide. In fact, the reason we elect SelectBoard members is for them to do their homework and inform the public of all the possible outcomes. This Select Board rushed this article through in fear of a potential NON-Binding Citizens Petition. I can't think of a worse reason to slap together a Warrant article simply in fear of what the people may want to vote on. I don't feel that the voters will be getting a full picture of what the consequences will be if the warrant article passes. It is far more than "taking a temperature". Once voted, the decision will be binding, and the town will be committed to following whatever final language is on that Warrant Article. There could be court costs involved that have yet to be disclosed or even discussed.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my concerns tonight.