**Annual Report of Sugar Hill Roads Committee**

 **(DRAFT 12/16/23)**

Members of the Sugar Hill Road Committee work with Road Agent Doug Glover to identify places most in need of road work and make plans for surfacing and other rehabilitation projects. The town has 22 miles of paved through roads, two miles of other paved roads, and three miles of gravel roads. In 2023, sections of Center District, Dyke and Pearl Lake Roads totaling approximately 1.1 miles were upgraded by grinding the old pavement to provide better subgrade support and then repaving the surface.

Pavement conditions on the town’s major paved roads are documented by analyzing photographs taken at 0.1-mile increments and noting the extent of cracking, pot holes and other problems. In 2023, the pavement on nearly two-thirds of the town’s major roads was found to be in excellent or good condition, while only 14% were in poor or very poor condition. Carpenter, Dyke, Easton, and Hadley Roads each had four 0.1-mile segments with very poor condition, and Jesseman Road had three. each had a and Pearl Lake Roads each had about a half-mile with poor or very poor condition. Six other roads had one or two such segments. Pavement conditions were about the same as in the prior year, as shown below in pie charts that summarize conditions in 2022 and 2021.

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Average ride quality was about the same in November 2023 as in November 2022. It was possible to drive comfortably at the speed limit on nearly two thirds of the paved miles on major roads. Drivers would experience roughness on the remaining roads, but would still be able to drive at the speed limit on most of them. To avoid excessive roughness, drivers would have to slow down on about 10% of our road segments, including four or more 0.1-mile segments on Carpenter and Easton Roads, three such segments on Dyke Road and Lover’s Lane, and two each on Hadley Road, South Street, and Peckett’s Crossing.

In 2024, the committee will continue to work with the Highway Department and Select Board in setting priorities for road work and in examining long-term strategies for maintaining and improving our roads.

Sugar Hill Roads Committee: Brian Beaulieu

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