

A portion of the Selectman's Selections from the September Pomfret Times

Longmeadow Road Treatment

Longmeadow Drive and all of the cul-de-sacs that spur off of that drive were treated with a road rejuvenator earlier this summer. This is the first time that a product like this has been used in this town and it was used to extend the life of the road until the town had set aside the full amount needed to do a complete resurfacing of those roads. There were discussions at the Selectman's meetings leading up to the decision to use this rejuvenator, including a full town budget meeting where there was a presentation of the proposed treatment that would be used. After the application, many of the residents were not satisfied with the finished result nor with the product that was used. Many people assumed that it was a typical coal tar driveway sealant (and found information on the internet about those products). The product is not a driveway sealant and does not just sit on top of the roadway, it is designed to seep into the road and help to rejuvenate the tar and extend the life of the roadway. It has been used in many locations throughout the United States and holds a US patent. The main concern of residents is that the product that was used does contain coal tar, and there are some reports of long term health risks with the use of coal tar in driveway sealants. In fact, 2 states have banned the use of driveway sealants that use coal tar. The Connecticut Department of Public Health has an informative piece on these sealants called 'Environmental Health Technical Brief - Coal Tar Driveway Sealant', but Connecticut, and individual towns in Connecticut, do not ban its use. It is important to reiterate here that the product used in Longmeadow was not a driveway sealant. At the time of this writing, there is a scheduled Special Meeting of the Board of Selectman on August 22 that will address the concerns of the residents of the town who want more accurate information about the product that was used and what direction the town will take with this particular application. Many experts and authorities have been contacted in the past few weeks to make an assessment of the applied product and any risks to people and to the environment. Representatives from the state and local health departments have also been contacted. If you did not attend this meeting, you can find the minutes of that meeting on the Pomfret town website. The next regularly scheduled Selectmen's meeting will be on September 5th at 8:00 am and the agenda for that meeting will also be posted on the website. If you would like further information not found on the website, please contact the First Selectman's office in the town hall.

Excerpt from Selection submitted by Barry Jessurun