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Fayette

I moved to Maine in 1998 with intention of building a house. In 2006 I applied for a permit to build on Young Rd and I asked about road plowing. They told me at the office that more houses would have to be built on the road before they would take over maintenance. I asked how many, they said five. Not sure if they pulled that randomly or that really was the number, I doubt they really ever thought five houses would be ever be on an unmaintained road. However on my side of Young Rd there are five residences, four of them are full time and one year round part time. We have pleaded, cajoled, begged the Town to plow and maintain the road. I personally filled out a petition to have the road put on a Town Warrant at the Town meeting, went around got several hundred signatures only to have the selectmen stand up and say we advise you not to vote this road in. Why did I bother, if you weren't going to give me a fighting chance? I've gone to several selectman's meetings about the issue, every time it comes up someone is there to shoot it down. I was once told privately that so long as the Manter's live on Young Rd, the Town will never ever take over the road maintenance, how does that make that fair to them or me, just because they sought justice for the road? I pay pretty hefty taxes for the "privilege" of living in Fayette. I don't have my road plowed or the road graded, new gravel put in once in a while, logging trucks can come in put huge ruts into my road and I'm suppose to just grin and bear it. People come in the Spring time to mud run the road, tearing up the road further, but because it's a public unmaintained road they are allowed to do it, and I can't heavy load post or tell them not to destroy my road. Do they care that other people have to use this road every single day of the year? No. Do they care that I pay taxes so they have to the prividge of posting their roads and ask me not to mud run on their roads? No. Do they care that my neighbor went to Jail for trying to prevent someone from destroying the road, that he would end up having to fix with his time, his money, and his labor? No. Town was okay with my neighbor taking responsibility for trying to fix the road with a culvert, that another resident of the town ran over and broke his axle. Why he couldn't see the road had a ditch in it or that culvert pipe was lying right next to the ditch to be put in, I'll never know, had to be blind as bat. However, said neighbor was allowed to sue my neighbor because he broke his axle on road. A part of the road that no one uses because it's full of boulders and big huge rocks and to grade the road into something passable would be extremely expensive. You can only drive down it with 4 wheel drive and even then you run the risk of doing some serious damage to your vehicle. I have 4 wheel drive and I would not even begin to attempt to navigate that section of the road. At the top of the road another group of houses were built that could be accessed by Oak Hill Rd, the Town gave those resident's permits too, to build. Eventually they were given the right to change the name of the road to something else, probably to allow it to be plowed and maintained by the Town at a later point. Since Young Rd was a road since the 1700's it's the only logical conclusion one can draw from allowing the section of Young Rd that has more houses on it to be allowed a free pass into maintenance and leave the rest of us to suffer. We pay taxes too! We want to have the same rights as the rest of the Town. We want our taxes to count for

something and not be
a black hole of despair. I believe the Selectman that took me aside and said this road will
never be
maintained so long as the Manter's live here. Here's the funny thing about this road, though,
we get Mail
delivery from the United Post Office full time to our homes. It's even registered in St. Louis,
MO, that
we are a normal mailing route. Maine State Statues says mailing routes HAVE to be plowed,
yet we are not.
We tried to get the US Post Office to help us, they even sent a letter to them about the road,
The Town sent
them back a letter saying no. The Post Office in Washington DC sent me a letter stating they
were unwilling
to get involved in local politics, even when it was pointed out to them the Maine State Statue
about mailing
routes. I find it rich this Town has the right to bowl over the Federal Government and still
maintain they
don't have to plow or maintain my road at ALL, that anyone can drive up and down it, destroy
it and not
have to pay to repair it, but the resident's of the road ARE FORCED to be the SLAVES to this
road at our
Expense. Trouble is because it's a Public Maintained road we aren't technically allowed to
maintain the road
either, because then we assume the liability on the road, and that's not fair either, as the
Manter's found
out when Baker sued them and won and then took a whole lot of money for punitive
damages.
Please fix this issue. We have waited a really, really long time to get justice for our road and
all the
other roads in this mess all across the State. Stop making the resident's of these roads
SLAVES to the Town
and other person's that want to use and destroy our roads for their pleasure. Make our TAX
dollars COUNT!
Testimony for discontinued roads, second try.