

Town of Sutton

ATV/UTV Committee Meeting
January 30, 2019

Attendance: Clint Gray, Paul Brouha, Mark Hall, Tom Featheringham, Scott Spencer, Lucien Belanger, Garret Keizer, Katie Anderson, Bill Perkins, Cheryl Garcia, Adam Carleton, Jeannie Powers, Danielle Fortin

Motion made to open meeting at 6:04 PM made by Clint Gray. Seconded by Danielle Fortin.

Modification to agenda: Paul would like to have a hearing scheduled.

Meeting minutes were reviewed. Paul moved to accept the minutes. Mark seconded. Motion accepted

Discussion:

Bill Perkins Chair Select Board of Westmore. Town's people do not want to open roads to ATV's. Brighton ATV club approached Westmore Select Board to open roads so ATV's could get to other places. Board members were willing to open a few roads but the community members wrote in letters, called and stopped in the office and most (30:1) were against the idea of it. The State Forrester's were also against it. They have had trouble with them ripping up CCC Roads, Mount Hoar and Wheeler Mountain Rd. Another negative for them is the dust, noise of the 4-wheelers and the safety of the kids, hikers and swimmers who live, play and visit their town. And lastly, there would be no economic benefit to Westmore opening their roads unless Route 5A was open. 5A splits the town of Westmore so there is no way to get from one side of Route 5A to the other, without it open, ATV's can't get to the stores or campgrounds.

Question from Adam to Bill: If we open, and now that Barton is open, would you reconsider opening your roads?

Answer: No! Probably not.

John Lewandowski, Select Board Chairman of Newark couldn't make the meeting but met with Clint on Monday. John stated that Newark's position was to keep the roads closed until they were approached by the club from Brighton and members from V.A.S.A. gave a presentation. Their request was to see if Newark would open a few roads to allow ATV operators travel through Newark to join trails to Brighton and then onto other parts of Orleans and Essex County.

Newark Select Board decided to look as possible trails/roads to be opened. This process started in October 2018 with discussion of opening a few roads and developing an ordinance. Newark's attorney, Bill Davies is writing up an ordinance that the Select Board is close to approving. A copy of the proposed ordinance was passed out.

Bill Perkins and Katie Anderson from Westmore requested a copy of the proposed ordinance.

Jeannie talked about Burke. The Select Board members who were against ATV's are no longer on the board. She spoke with two of them, one didn't feel qualified to speak because she has only been

on the board for a few years and the second one didn't know much about it either. The third member never called her back. The Town Clerk of Burke thinks that the current select board is neutral now.

Brighton- Danielle spoke with Mike, the chair of their Select Board. He informed her that allowing ATV's has had a positive impact on their economy in the last two years. The only complaints the board members get are on locals and it is not very often. When they get a complaint, they contact the President of their ATV club, Reno, and he goes and talks to the person the complaint was about. Danielle is going to contact Joel Cope to invite him to a meeting.

Old Business:

Review old ordinances.

-Paul reviewed Suttons ordinances of 2006, 2007

- March 2012, Kelly Willey willing to put up signs. Worked with VASA to open roads. Putting out petition

- May 2012, board accepted petition. Board held a hearing.

- June 2012, public hearing

- June 2012, tabled any action until next meeting.

- August 2012, brought off the table, board decided to leave ordinance the way it was. John Neilon wanted to do something to slow down ATV's.

Paul wrote a letter to Danny Hale, VASA, telling him that board is leaving ordinance alone, with the exception of Wheelock to powerline. Requested help with enforcement.

-May 2014, problem with ATV's. Shatney, sheriff, could enforce ordinance. Gray's had some concerns.

- July 2014, another letter written to Danny Hale. Again, requesting help with enforcement.

- June 2018, wrote letter to board talking about petition and direction from town plan, opening class III & IV roads.

Handed out Barnet's and Burke's ordinance.

Paul Brouha further presented a handout title "Bias". Paul read the handout and discussed what he thought was bias that in the first meeting Chairman Clint Gray had instructed the committee to "act as one unit" and why he thought that "act" was somewhat bias. Clint explained that when he set the ground rules at the 1st meeting it was to insure that the group were together and no prejudice or bias acted on by any individual member. Clint advises we leave our individual feelings outside the door and not bring them into the committee.

The mission of this committee was to make recommendations to the Select Board about ATV/UTV roads being opened or not for the town of Sutton. Clint stated after hearing from the other towns, law enforcement and V.A.S.A. this committee should be better educated to make sound recommendations to the Select Board and what's best for the Sutton community.

Paul would like us to change the wording from "act as one unit" to "work as one unit." There was no objection.

2006 ordinance needed to be revised... Because of the new State law, Section B, class 4 roads needed updating, thus the revised 2007 ordinance was passed. Now the 2007 ordinance needs to be updated.

VLCT has a model ordinance that was passed out. Read and will be discussed at the next meeting, February 6th.

New Business:

Expenditures. Paul suggested the secretary be paid. Danielle declined. Clint stated our committee needs to do our own research and make our own copies and not expect the ladies in the Town Clerk's office do to our work. Clint requested that he be notified of any requests to make copies and that members be mindful of money spent.

No money will be spent without prior approval of Clint, since we have no budget, Clint needs to defend the expenditures to the Select Board, which he will do if he has approved the expenditure.

Forecast of meetings:

Confirmation of meetings...

February 6th:

Mark can ask the lady on the Barton ATV committee that he knows to be present. She was instrumental with interacting with the ATV group and Barton Select Board.

Clint will ask members of Sheffield, Wheelock and Barton Select Board to attend the Feb 6th meeting.

February 13th:

VASA

Clint will ask the Sutton Select Board to attend so they can interact with V.A.S.A. regarding ATV operation and enforcement.

February 20th:

Law enforcement- Clint will contact the following to see if any can attend the meeting: Vermont State Police (Shawn McGarvin, has unofficial stats); VT. Fish & Wildlife (Dave Gregory) regarding the enforcement of ATV laws; Caledonia Sheriff Dept. (Sheriff Dean Shatney). Review preliminary proposals for ordinance.

Cheryl Garcia attended the meeting and was asked how E. Burke enforce their bike trails and their frustrations. She said the trail system was designed to draw bikes to E. Burke and all trails lead to the village. It was good but may have been too good which lead to frustration. It was good for an economic upswing. It has become "too much of a good thing". Cheryl will call around to see if someone from the Kingdom Trail Bike committee can come to a meeting. She will let Danielle know either way.

February 23rd:

Paul recommended having a public meeting on February 23, 2019 starting at 2:30-5 PM at the Sutton School in the Multi-Purpose room. Clint will contact VASA to see if they can be there to answer any questions. (Clint will call to see if the multi-purpose room is available.)

February 27th:

Finish discussion of ordinance and have it wrapped up for Town Meeting on March 5th.

Motion made by Paul to adjourn. Seconded Jeannie. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:08 PM