

Town of Sutton
ATV/UTV Committee Meeting
February 6, 2019

Attendance: Clint Gray, Shawn Waldron, Paul Brouha, Mark Hall, Adam Carleton, Jeannie Powers, Danielle Fortin, Lenny Zenonos, Tom Featheringham, Maurice Guertin, Garret Keizer, Cheryl Garcia, Jim Nicol

Motion made to open meeting at 6:01 PM by Clint.

Agenda modifications: Have handouts of Thetford and Glover ordinance.

Minutes were reviewed.

Modifications: Paul would like an addition. Where it states he wrote letters to Danny Hale, VASA, it should state that they were written "by direction of the Select Board."

Paul moves. Mark seconds

Discussion:

Barton: Lenny, Chair of Barton Select Board, discussed why they opened roads and how it has impacted Barton, Barton Village and Orleans Village. He informed the group and committee members that they had more problems when the roads were closed saying they were "racing from point A to point B." Since opening roads they have had fewer problems and overall it has been very successful. He told the group the same thing happened when he lived in Brownington and saw the same results when he was a law enforcement agent. He stated that VASA is good at policing. All roads in Barton and the Villages are open.

-Mark asked about the State Highways. Lenny said they worked with the State to open them. They realize that it is becoming a more popular sport.

-Jeannie asked about the speed limit at 35 mph. He said they haven't had any complaints.

-Paul asked about the ordinance. We were told we had the wrong ordinance. Paul will pick up the correct one this week. Lenny doesn't believe that when they revised the ordinance in 2018 that they require a driver's license. He thinks they just went with the State laws on ATV's. Barton does require helmets on 4-wheelers (not side-by-sides because they have seatbelts and roll cages), registration and insurance.

-Danielle asked how it affected their insurance. Lenny said their insurance didn't go up. That's why they require motorists to have insurance on the machines, just like a vehicle. And the law states that selectmen or/landowners are "held harmless." If the town highways or private land was open to ATV's.

-Mr. Featheringham asked about towns "legal trails." Lenny said that all public roads are open. If it isn't to public, it isn't open to ATV's. Landowners allow trails on property through VASA.

Sheffield: Clint spoke with Walter Smith. Only trouble they have is on Rte. 122. Use it like a racetrack. No problems on any of their back roads that are open to ATV. A few times, law enforcement knocked on doors. Spoke with Max, road foreman/selectman and he said same thing. They started with a few roads and slowly got all roads open. The town had contact with Caledonia Sheriff's Dept. and a couple of times the Deputies took whatever action that was warranted, from talking to verbal/written warnings to tickets. The punitive action was dependent on the seriousness of the violation.

Wheelock: Jason DiGiulio, Chair on Wheelock Select Board, couldn't make it.

Old Business:

Law enforcement- Sheriff Dean Shatney said he would have someone here if he can't make it. Clint called Lt. Matt Amidon to see if a State Trooper will be here. (Lt. Amidon has not returned the call to Clint yet). Clint will contact Lieutenant Tara Thomas to get the stats.

Game Warden- Lt. Dave Gregory said he or a Game Warden will be there.

Public hearing is all set. Warning is posted. School room is reserved. VASA will be there to answer questions.

New Business:

Had a little discussion about VLCT and VASA sample ordinances. Spoke about fines and how they were handled, inside and outside of court and with a jury. Clint explained the civil process and hearings before a Hearing Judge.

Paul volunteered to combine VLCT sample ordinance and 2007 Sutton Town ordinances for a starting point. Clint said we will start discussing what we want in an ordinance after we hear from VASA and law enforcement along with the Sutton residents and landowners for suggestions for recommendations for the ordinance.

Clint handed out Thetford and Glover ordinances. Quickly reviewed them, pointing out some things that he liked about them.

-Paul- Katie Anderson informed him that Newark did not take action on ordinance because they needed more public input.

Motion made to adjourn by Shawn. Paul seconded. Motion moved. Adjourned at 7:08 PM

Meeting minutes by
Danielle Fortin