

Town of Sutton
ATV/UTV Committee Meeting
August 28, 2019

Attendance: Clint Gray, Danielle Fortin, Jeannie Powers, Adam Carleton, Shawn Waldron, Mark Hall, Garrett Keizer,

Meeting is brought to order by Clint at 6:01 PM.

Agenda Modifications:

None

Approval of Minutes:

Jeannie made a motion to approve the minutes. Mark seconds. No discussion. Motion passed.

Old Business:

Jeannie asked if Clint sent a question to the Planning Commission about ATV's for the town survey and wondered how it was worded? Clint stated he asked for it to be a statistical question: "do you as a resident own an ATV/UTV?"

Information given to the Select Board-

Clint read the approved minutes of the Select Board meeting held July 25. The Informational joint meeting as discussed and the Select Board would rather it be on September 7th to get through all the fairs and holiday, the time will still be at 2:30PM.

Mission Statement: To open trails/ roads to have access to Wheelock and Sheffield.

Garrett likes that when Clint asked about our "mission statement" and that Mark answered the way he did. He feels that this is exactly what our committee has been working towards this whole time.

The Select Board looked at roads we recommended. Clint would like to present the roads as written out in our last minutes, not Town Highway numbers to make it clear to residents at the Information Meeting on the 7th.

We, as a committee, are aware that we will never have 100% of residents for/or against ATV's. We like that community members are giving well thought out reasons why they don't want ATV's but if the Select Board does decide to open a trail or road, they have stipulations or other ideas for trail areas.

We are working with landowners as well as Select Board.

Select Board is willing to open Town Property behind the Town Clerk's office and down by the Deos property as "recreational trails" for things such as cross country skiing, snowshoeing or ATV's.

New Business:

Discussion of Paul Brouha's written minority report- Paul wasn't at the meeting so we are tabling this until next meeting.

Address Shawn Waldron's written report and his concerns-

Shawn stated he was caught off guard because we were talking to landowners about using their property at the last meeting that he had attended and now we are proposing opening roads. One of his concerns is that if we open roads, we are rewarding the people who already using the roads. He is frustrated that everyone was on the same page at the last meeting he came to and then all of a sudden, we are doing the opposite. Another concern of Shawn's was enforcement. Mark has been speaking with Danny Hale and he stated that if we open roads, he guarantees that we will have enforcement. Shawn says that the town doesn't see enforcement now. His last concern is if we were to open these roads, people are going to contact committee members and Select Board members and suggest other roads. Shawn mentions that he respects everything that the committee members are doing to towards getting their recreational hobbies open. Shawn doesn't want to hurt Jeannie, Adam and Mark and the way they are properly getting trails open instead of just riding illegally.

Clint's question to Shawn: Would you take and support going to Tanners on the Hollow Rd to stay out of the Village and take away his (Shawn's) intersection. Shawn: yes, but it depends on how much traffic this generates. Clint asked about taking the Wheelock/Sheffield Road intersection out. Shawn said no, we can try it and the Select Board can close it if there is a problem.

There are a lot of grandkids on that road now and he is nervous to add more traffic.

It was discussed that a majority of ATV riders are responsible!!!! Hopefully peer pressure will be applied to the ones who are going to ruin it for others. Shawn mentioned that he needs to separate the good from the few bad.

Shawn's concerns were addressed and resolved!!! Shawn said that he was satisfied.

Other Business:

Offer to members of the community that attend a joint Informational Meeting:

Map- Road names- complaint form- VASA private property permission slip- Select Board binder.

Part of the packet: Recreation Trail- Wheelock Rd, powerline, Woods Hill Rd to Gold Mine Rd, should we ask to bring the trail to Barry Hill Rd., so we have three exits out of the Town? Shawn wants to know who this would impact. Mark states that there are only a few houses up that way. Shawn would like it to be warned that we may be adding this route. Also, would like us to speak to the few residents before proposing this.

ATV Update at last Select Board meeting-

Joe wanted it noted in their minutes that he did receive the map from Clint, ATV committee, and he had just forgotten it on the table. Dianna had included it in his folder for the last meeting. Joe now has the copy.

They, Select Board, want all complaints and correspondence to go through the committee and the committee then make the proper recommendations to the Select Board,

they do not want to receive individual letters/ complaints from people, or from individual members on the ATV/UTV committee. Denis Royer stated that the recommendations they received is from the ATV/UTV committee and the majority rules as with any other boards or committees.

The Select Board wants the ATV/UTV committee to explore ways to fund law enforcement, signage and repairs. Come up with ways to put money into the budget for these things, not just from the tax payers funding these items.

Correspondence:

Garret Keizer's offer to help write a facts and findings report-

He is willing to help make sure that it is objective to both sides. Also make sure that I's are dotted and T's are crossed. He is not going to interject his personal feelings into it. He was not implying that we needed him. And he doesn't want his name on it, just edit and make sure points are getting across.

Mark would like to offer Mr. Keizer a seat on the committee. He graciously declined. Clint said the Select Board would appoint someone if a vacancy occurs on the committee. The ATV/UTV committee could make recommendations.

Garret: success in his view, depends on how hard we push the mission statement and forceful we enforce it. We do not need to have the rider's just ride up and down the road for something to do. We are using these roads to get as many riders to a trail system in Wheelock and Sheffield and return to their residence, egress and ingress.

Clint make a motion to accept Garret's offer to assist the committee. Jeannie seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion passed.

Next meeting will be Sept. 7, 2019 at 2:30PM as a Joint Public Informational Meeting – Select Board & ATV/UTV Committee. Small committee meeting to be held after meeting.

Discussed having the next meeting, after the joint meeting, on October 2nd after trails are closed.

Clint made a motion to adjourn. Shawn seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:03 PM

Submitted by
Danielle Fortin, Secretary