

Town of Sutton
ATV/UTV Committee Meeting
July 24, 2019

Attendance: Clint Gray, Mark Hall, Jeannie Powers, Adam Carleton, Paul Brouha, Danielle Fortin, Garrett Keizer, Tom Featheringham, Maurice Guertin,

Meeting called to order by Clint at 6:03 PM.

Agenda Modifications:

Under old business, Clint would like to get a survey update.

Approval of Minutes:

Add Mr. Keizer to the attendance for last meeting.

Mark made a motion to accept minutes with the one change. Adam seconded. Motion accepted.

Old Business:

Mark spoke with Gary Fitzgerald on the Station Rd. He does not have a problem with ATV's driving through his property on the "legal trail" from Underpass Rd to Station Rd. He said there are a few washouts. Mark Pierce does not have a problem with it either who also owns land on that same "legal trail."

Clint spoke with Chip Devenger and Chip stated he would be okay with the ATV/UTV using the intersection of Wheelock Road and Sheffield Road. He wants to have good signage and would want to have enforcement of the stop signs for both ATV/UTV and other motor vehicles.

Joe Solinsky stated he was okay with ATV/UTV using the Craig Pond Road. He further stated we could use the town road right-of-way at the top of the hill towards the Underpass Road.

Clint and Mark walked a trail from Big E's on Route 5 to Station Rd.

Clint spoke with George "Georgie" Wagner and he gave us permission to use his half of the property on the "Old Town Rd." formerly TR #27. This is just looking ahead for future trails.

After doing research on the Town property in Sutton, Clint found that the sand screen and the gravel pit belong to a taxpayer. There is a parcel of land that belongs to the Town of Sutton School District. If we use this property for part of our trail system, we will have to change the wording in the ordinance about riding on school grounds.

Garrett would like the committee to reconsider how ATV's could enter Craig Pond Rd because of lack of visibility.

Paul would like to make the suggestion that we should discuss with land abutters about opening roads. Clint stated that if we do this for ATV's then we would have to consider all other outdoor recreational activities (snowmobiles, horseback riding, bicycling etc.). Paul stated that he feels that Clint seems to be moving more towards ATV's and not a neutral party anymore. Clint said that we could take a vote on what the committee wants but if it passes,

Paul would have to drop the conversation. Paul feels that landowners should have more of a say. The committee argued that they have already spoken with almost all landowners on the roads they want to open. Clint stated that this is what we have been doing for the last (3) three months when the members of this committee has been contacting landowners, abutting properties to the town roads and legal trails.

Clint would like to have another public meeting to let the residents know of the road additions. He would like this to be a joint meeting with the Select Board.

Maurice stated that he started coming to the meetings not wanting ATV's on his road. Since attending our meetings he is more neutral. This past weekend he found it was easier to go directly to his neighbors and tell him how he feels about how unsafe his company is on their ATV's. When they were here last, they were more respectful and cautious.

Garrett's concern is how they are driving by his house and it bringing extra people to our community. Mark doesn't think that there is anything here to draw people in. Garrett would hate to see all the hard work of the committee has put in, ruined because of his concerns.

There was heated discussion of the "Special Town Meeting" that was held last year and the decision of the Select Board to form this committee and NOT open ALL class 3 & 4 roads/ not listening to the people when it was voted not to have ATV's on the town roads.

Last year (2018) after the vote 90-75 the Select Board formed an ATV/UTV Committee to see if any town roads, legal trails and private property could form a trail or trails for owners of ATV/UTV's to access Wheelock and Sheffield to ride in and out of town.

Survey update

Paul isn't sure where to insert a question in the survey. Committee suggests adding a "recreational" question. Clint would like a survey question added as to who in the Town of Sutton owns an ATV/UTV and how many ATV/UTV's are owned as a stand-alone question or part of a "Recreational" question.

New Business:

Following roads, legal trails recommended to be opened to the Select Board.

- a. Morey Rd (portion) North from the 4 Corners Rd to Underpass Rd.
- b. 4 Corners Rd from Morey Road East through the intersection of Underpass Rd.
- c. Legal Trail from 4 Corners/Underpass Rd to the Station Rd.
- d. Underpass Rd. from the King George Rd. to the intersection of Morey Rd.
- e. Craig Pond Rd. from King George Rd. to Sheffield Rd.
- f. Woods Hill Rd. from the Sheffield Rd. to the Power Line (already open) not open from Goldmine Rd. up to the cul-de-sac by the Seymour's fields.
- g. Sheffield Rd. open from Center St. to Woods Hill Rd.
- h. Wheelock Rd. from Center St./Sheffield Rd. to the Power Line. (Power Line to Wheelock Rd. is currently open.
- i. Burke Rd. (Portion) from Simpson Hill Rd. to the Burke Town Line.
- j. Simpson Hill Rd. (entire)
- k. Calendar Brook Rd. (portion) from Simpson Hill Rd. to Pudding Hill Rd.
- l. Pudding Hill Rd. (portion) Calendar Brook Rd. to Intersection of Chapman Rd. and South Ridge Rd.

- m. Chapman Rd. from Pudding Hill Rd. to the beginning of the Legal Trail. Legal Trail is NOT open
- n. South Ridge Rd. to Wheelock Rd.
- o. King George Rd. (portion) Craig Pond Rd. to Underpass Rd.

The committee mapped out roads for Select Board.

Committee discussed the recommendations that will be presented by Clint, to the Select Board Thursday the 25th of July at their meeting. Clint made it known that even if the Select Board approves our recommendations tomorrow night, this will not take effect until next year. It will have to go to the lawyer and then starts the 60-day process.

Clint made a motion to present our recommendations to the Select Board and ask them to hold another "Special Meeting" to inform residents, preferably a joint meeting with the Board and our committee. Paul seconds the motion.

Garrett wants to know if the Select Board adopts the recommendation, the committee will hold an informational meeting and then letting the community know what has been completed and recommended. Garrett would like the Select Board to look at the recommendations, hold the "Special Meeting" and then adopt the recommendations. Vote taken on the motion: 5 I's; 0 Nay; 1 Abstention. Paul would like it noted that he disagrees with Calendar Brook Rd. being opened so he abstained.

Correspondences:

Paul was contacted by Herb Di Gioia about New Hampshire Public Radio on July 6th regarding the controversy on ATV's in Northern NH.

Next meeting was set for August 24th with the potential of it being a joint public "Special Hearing" at 2:30. Followed by a regular meeting with the Select Board and ATV/UTV Committee. Clint stated the ATV/UTV Committee will hold an informational meeting even if the Select Board elects not to have a "joint" meeting.

Paul made a motion to adjourn. Adam seconded. Meeting adjourned at 804 PM.

Minutes taken by
Danielle Fortin