

OHRV Committee Meeting Minutes August 21st, 2023, 4:00 pm
Community Center

- Members Present:
 - Chairman Jim Morse, Kris Blomback, Chief Matt French, Leo Aucoin, Lori Hubbard, Beth Patenaude, Paul Sheppard, Ross Bennett, Robert Pagano, Kathy Anderson
 - Members Absent:
 - Scott Dias
 - Recording Secretary:
 - Kathy Anderson
 - Guests:
 - Nancy DeMoura (Western Ave, Henniker), Greg Marsh (1501 Dodge Hill Rd, Henniker), Kirke Olson (1419 Dodge Hill Rd, Henniker), Joan O'Connor (7 Echo Lane, Henniker), Tom Patenaude (293 Pine Hill Rd, Henniker), Chris Woodbury (133 Ridgetop Lane, Henniker), Diane Kendall (Town Administrator, Antrim), Bill Marko (Evergreen Circle, Henniker), Elizabeth Butters (1456 Dodge Hill Rd, Henniker), Gregg Champlin (678 Dodge Hill Rd, Henniker), Ken MacNeil (107 Bible Hill Rd, Hillsboro), Brad Fyfe (87 Paradise Dr, Bennington), Douglas Popp (290 2nd NH Tpke, New Boston), Arnie Huftalen (681 Western Ave, Henniker), Jody Whelton (Dodge Hill Rd, Henniker), Sher Kamman (1419 Dodge Hill Rd, Henniker), Grace Cohen (44 Bound Tree Rd, Henniker), S Wiley?? (1 Preston St, Hillsborough), Alvin Wiley?? (1 Preston St, Hillsborough), F Smith (??)
- I. Meeting called to order at 4:00 pm by Chairman Morse
- Pledge of Allegiance and Attendance
- II. Approval of Minutes
- Ross Bennett provided updates; Beth Patenaude provided updates – minutes were modified
 - Ross Bennett made motion to approve the minutes for June 27, 2023 with changes; Paul Sheppard seconded. All in favour
- III. Public Comment
- Nancy Demoura (Western Ave) – CVATVR Secretary – the club changed the ATV verbiage fliers that are given out to riders while on Trail Patrol
 - Grace Cohen (44 Bound Tree Rd) – lived here since 1978; since OHRV allowed, increase maintenance on many roads; increased policy reports; takes costly town resources away from serving more roads that tax payers are paying for; asked Police and Highway Dept how much has their activity increased since ATV's on class 5 roads; speeding, dust, salt environment, loud, litter, intimidation; not just property abutters are disturbed, but can hear from organic farm fields; riding here is a privilege, not a right to ride on our town roads; connecting state trails wold increase town policing and road repair; already have many Massachusetts residents coming from Hopkinton parking lot
 - Arnie Huftalen (681 Western Ave) – lived here for 30 years; Western Ave is not a good place for ATV's to ride; I'm not against ATV's; map shows more paved roads than trails; Western Ave has a lot of speeding; it's ¼ mile drag racing; speed is an issue; main concern is safety; there is a lot of traffic; ATV drivers are respectable, as they look over their shoulder; I've seen people with children riding on the tank; a lack of complaints does not mean all is OK; I can't find a place online to submit complaints; riders all day on a nice

day; many times after hours, seems to be a regular occurrence; behavior on ATV's is getting bad.

- Joan O'Connor (Echo Lane) – last meeting a State Representative recorded meeting and criticized our Road Agent; did she have permission to record?
- Gregg Champlin (678 Dodge Hill Rd) – I'm not an abutter, but can hear ATV's clearly; trucks and large trailers hauling ATV's in, creates dust; calcium Leo is kind enough to put down, have seen a sign that is conveniently pushed down; does not think riders are spending much, if any, money in town; was run off road by Mass vehicle
- Kirke Olson (1419 Dodge Hill Rd) – regarding economics, about 8 houses pay \$10,000 in property taxes, which equates to \$80,000
- Chris Woodbury (133 Ridgetop Lane) – live off from Davison Road, and belong to the local ATV club; he is an avid class 5 & 6 road bike rider; has seen subjective comments, but hasn't seen objective comments such as facts, quantitative analysis; as a gravel bike rider, rides Dodge Hill, Hemlock and other roads in the area; hasn't seen ATV's on weekends the last 3 weekends
- Grace Cohen (44 Bound Tree Rd) – what are dates when roads were closed; Wednesday July 12th through Friday August 4th
- Elizabeth Butters (1456 Dodge Hill Rd) – 1 weeks after the last meeting, riders had middle finger up when passing house; she had given her address at the last meeting

IV. Club Comments – Gulf and Hemlock and Bear Hill signage

V. Club Comments – Beth Patenaude – camera study

- Dodge Hill – August 5-20
 - 2 motorcycles, 272 cars, 36 ATV, 9 UTV, 5 dirt bikes (3 were plated)
- Western Ave – August 5-14
 - 211 motorcycles, 3879 cars, 45 ATV, 20 UTV, 9 dirt bikes, 79 bicycles
- Western Ave – August 19 – 20
 - 93 motorcycles, 1009 cars, 10 ATV, 9 UTV, 17 dirt bikes (3 were plated), 31 bicycles
- Western Ave Totals
 - 304 motorcycles, 4888 cars, 55 ATV, 29 UTV, 26 dirt bikes, 110 bicycles
- Ross Bennett – regarding numbers and cameras, they record better if placed where traffic slows down, vs a straight-away; long range study is not advantageous; weekends vs weekdays; Hemlock Corner Rd on weekday – 7-12 plated vehicles per day average; 8/3 – 8/15 2 weeks – 159 total cars/trucks, 4 wheelers 155 ATV's; ATV traffic higher and focused on weekend
- Jim Morse – on Hemlock Corner Loop there was law enforcement last 5 weekends; car traffic is well more than ATV, about 2/3 are cars

VI. Police Comments – Chief French

- No new information
- 3 direct patrols, 4 hour patrols at various times of day; police are hours paid by grant
- Lori Hubbard has seen police and Fish & Game later in the day
- Regarding complaint form – Jim will follow up with Hank/Diane

VII. Road Agent Comments – Leo Aucoin

- Dodge Hill is getting hammered; Hemlock Corner Loop, road is loosening up, it's an erosion issue; could provide pictures of ATV tracks, but you will probably say they are truck tracks; UTV's after hours and they are not plated UTV's; explained if plated they can ride 24 hours a day, vs non plated can not; someone should go to Town Clerk to find out

who has a plate; must have storage if have a plate; see regulation of width and CC limits; he thinks larger UTV's are the issue, not ATV's; OHRV is 65" width per State of NH law

VIII. Selectmen Comments

IX. 2nd Public Comment

- Ross Bennett – club **says** economic benefit of ATV/UTV in **town**; showed many **pictures of roads impacted by** road erosion page 1, 2; Chase Rd page 3, 4, 5; Private Property page 6, 7
- Lori Hubbard – trail behind her house, Jeeps do go on; she **lets police** know
- Robert Pagano – what did trails look like 6 months ago
- Leo Aucoin – interrupted Robert Pagano and said “get a life”
- Robert Pagano – justified his comment by saying pictures are inconclusive
- Leo Aucoin – was having dinner at Daniel's and 2 riders were there; talked about trail off from Patterson Hill, and riders said they should ride there; Leo spoke to riders and said there is no trail where they were talking, but Leo said riders ignored him
- Jim Morse – mother nature is harder on these roads
- Ross Bennett – we need to think twice before we connect to other towns
- Beth Patenaude – NHOHVA- July 13th meeting and noted May - July 11 there is a decrease in registrations by 1026 since last year; 16 reported accidents since 1/1/23; 32 accidents during same time last year
- Grace Cohen (44 Bound Tree Rd) – Economic value – Col Jordan has watched the area; Yesterday it was very loud, sounding like remove exhaust, and she's sure they were speeding
- Arnie Huftalen (681 Western Ave) – he's troubled to hear someone was threatened (referring to Elizabeth Butters)
- Diane Kendall – Town Administrator – if go to town website > inside town hall > department > committee > OHRV, numbers are listed; submit concerns at Henniker.org > concerns > other; Diane has received 2 phone calls about people feeling harassed
- OHRV club – passed out updated handouts at last meeting; it's recommended the club adds a contact number and name on the handout
- Robert Pagano – going back to his previous comment when he was rudely interrupted; he said these are good pictures (from Ross Bennett) but it would be good to see date stamps over time; page 6 has a lot of tire tracks and it's hard to tell what tire tracks are from; Robert explained he's a “trained observer” and more contexts should be added to pictures
- Kirke Olson (1419 Dodge Hill Rd) – explained he's a psychologist and we see what we want to see; if only 3 ATV's, so why not close the road if there is not a lot of use
- Brad Fyfe (87 Paradise Dr, Bennington) – he's the CVATVR club Trail Master; when you see an issue, call law enforcement immediately; he explained he does trail patrol a lot, and has a camera on his ATV; he worked Browns Way and saw a few dirt bikes; he tries to educate riders, since he can't legally do anything else
- Joan O'Connor (Echo Lane) – she is not on the trail, but she can hear ATV's; she thought there is a regulation of only 5 riders in a group; clarification during Covid it was recommended of 6 max per group
- Grace Cohen (44 Bound Tree Rd) – she spent a day in Moab, rode UTV's and realized they dug up a lot of dirt
- Jack Krantz (Henniker) – off road vehicles should not be on roads; he supports off road vehicles on trails

- Elizabeth Butters (1456 Dodge Hill Rd) – those “pro” ATV’s tend to talk about economic benefits; trail cameras are not a perfect way to capture data; comments about increasing roads adds positive economic benefits; only 5 Henniker businesses said there is an economic benefit; this is different than town economic benefits; not opposed to ATV/UTV

X. Board Comments

- Lori Hubbard – she see’s some numbers and does not agree with them
- Beth Patenaude – baffled with Ross’s numbers
- Kathy Anderson –note the club supplies the calcium to the town for the roads. Yes, the town puts the calcium down, but they would do that without ATV’s on the road
- Robert Pagano – lives on Depot Hill and hears motorcycles; we need to be objective with our observations
- Ross Bennett – we need to consider our meeting time; Jim Morse explained this was the only date/time a facility could be used; **will share date/time of pictures at next meeting**
- Paul Sheppard – no comment
- Kris Blomback – no comment

XI. Schedule Next Meeting

- Monday, September 25th, at 6:00 pm at the Community Center

XII. Adjourn

- Paul Sheppard made motion to adjourn, Lori Hubbard seconded, all in favour
- Adjourned 5:25 pm