

**Town of Northumberland
Board of Selectmen
PUBLIC HEARING – ATV Trail Extension - Minutes
Date: Monday, June 18th, 2018
Place: Town Meeting Room – 10 Station Square
Time: 6:00 P.M.**

Board Members present: Michael Phillips, Jim Weagle, Chris Wheelock

Others: Al Rossetto, Robin Irving, Gary Rexford, Julie Boisselle, Tim Savage, Larry Meservey, Jim Gibson, Oliva and Geraldine Tetreault, Bruce Oakes, Sam Oakes, Shawn & Robin Gregg, Terri & Reggie Charron, Sue Marineau, Robert Saunders – Hoyle & Tanner, Richard Greene, Joseph Kennett, Greg Kenison, Officer Dennis Miccuci, Chief Pelletier, Rebecca St. Cyr – Recorder.

1. Chairman opens the Public Hearing:

J. Weagle opened the Public Hearing at 6:00 pm

- a. Discussion of proposed opening of State St. to ATV travel from the Town Swimming Pool to the North side of the Perras storage units.

ATV TRAIL EXTENSION - PROPOSAL

To allow ATV access, during the State designated season, to the portion of highway extending from the Northumberland Municipal Pool at 76 State Street to the "moose crossing" sign just beyond the Armstrong-Charron Funeral Home at 100 State Street. This stretch measures approximately 120 yards along Route 3 and would allow for access to MOM's business. It is all within a reduced speed zone area.

J. Weagle said we had to put an ad in the Union Leader, which was done.

Public Comments:

M. Phillips asked how the ATV's are getting to the trails currently. They can get to the trails from the trail from streets that are open in Town. C. Wheelock commented there is a trail head at the end of Melcher St./beginning of Second St., which allows them to get to State St., Main St., access across the covered bridge to get to Lost Nation (which is opened by the State to Page Hill). This would allow them to come in off the trail system (right now they can go as far as the pool). This would allow them to ride up and cross over to MOM's property just north of the Perras Storage sheds to access MOM's building. Other than to head north, the only way, is to go on Melcher St. to the end of Second St. to access the trail system. The current connection doesn't allow access to MOM's. This would be access from MOM's to the trail system or the trail system to MOM's.

There are plans to tie it into Speedway 51. As discussed at previous meetings, during the off season for special events, we could choose to issue a special event permit. M. Phillips commented there are several abutters and asked if any were present that wanted to speak.

R. Charron (an abutter) was present, his concern is with the funeral home; if there were services, they make noise. He is concerned there could be issues. Charron spoke about a recent incident where local police and F&G chasing some wheelers down the road, they were flying. They made a mess on Route 3 after coming out by the Legion. Sometimes, the ATV's are also using the track behind his house. Summer time is when people have things going on outside. R. Charron isn't against it; but hopes that things get better.

L. Meservey said if there is a weekend service and as community service we could work with the funeral home, he could put some people on the street to keep the traffic at bay during that time. T. Charron added that it's not just weekends; it's all times during the week. It could be 10:00 am or until 8:00 – 9:00 pm. She said there is a crosswalk in front of the funeral home and she's never seen an ATV stop to let anyone cross.

Chief Pelletier commented since we now have someone else on the force, the PD can work with them to keep the order as well. If the Charron's could let him know what the hours might be, they would work with them. She said the easiest way to be notified is to go to the website and be added to the mailing list, that way as soon as an obituary goes out they would have all the times.

R. Irving mentioned there was talk about getting a speed trailer or a camera. It's not just the ATV's, it's vehicles also, they start to accelerate in that area. C. Wheelock said another thing that might help; it's not Route 3 to Mom's, it's just beyond Charron's they will be coming off the road and by design they will need to slow down to cross over and get onto the trail. Sam Oakes understands the plan is to have the ATV's ride with the traffic. They will be traveling north and crossing over the south bound MV lane, which could be a safety concern. This is a dirt trail coming up onto the road – over a (somewhat) blind hill.

M. Phillips further discussed, if this 120 yards accesses MOM's, for them to get to the north bound trail they will need to come down the 120 yards to get to Melcher Court; we are not talking about north of MOM's to get to the trail access, what happened to that piece? We aren't there yet. J. Weagle said this needs to go to the State and probably won't be approved until next year. We are just trying to get it out there for approval for next year.

C. Wheelock said the big picture is to have access from the north; L. Meservey agreed. Either through the Brown Rd. interloop up to north of Dollar General or crossing at the Legion. Meservey said there are a couple of proposals for the State. Wheelock asked Meservey if he thought the ATV traffic would be more or less into and out of town, if this gets approved. L. Meservey said depending on where they are coming from. If from the north, there could be less traffic in town.

O. Tetreault asked if this is the proposal they prepared a letter for; J. Weagle said no, it was for Lost Nation access. Tetreault would like access to his motel on Route 3; Weagle comment he's been told there is no possible way that will happen. C. Wheelock said we've had a temporary (7 year) trail on Page Hill. There have been some big steps over the past few weeks that would eliminate the road travel to approx. ½ mile. There are others involved now from the Governor to the locals. Wheelock feels we are in a better position now than we were a few months ago. Right now, the ATV clubs are walking the trails to see where bridges are needed and make it, so they won't destroy the land. We are seeing progress. Wheelock talked about where it might be. Gregg thought it might affect approx. 3 properties on Page Hill. That's from a phone conversation last week.

M. Phillips asked if once the northern route is in place; is the 120 yards essentially a temporary fix. It's something that can be revisited. The Board can shut down the access if necessary.

T. Charron asked if there is a curfew? Wheelock said he thinks it's supposed to be 9:00 pm. R. Gregg commented that Page Hill is a residential area, she doesn't feel the ATV's should be coming through late at night. G. Kenison feels there is a fair amount of local traffic; they are traveling the road coming and going. If we could enforce what the trail was intended for – to connect Lancaster to the trail system. We have the trail, but we need a sign that shows the

trail starts here, put in a parking lot. We need to enforce the rules that we have. Kenison said there are more ATV's than ever on Page Hill, they are going too fast, loud, they are going well into the dark. It's dangerous and they are tearing up the road. He has spoke to the Chief, but we have no enforcement up there. Wheelock feels the new trail will take care of a lot of it. J. Boisselle said in the proposed new trail, they won't be able to go up and down Page Hill, they would have to be on the trail. She feels it should eliminate a lot of the issues. J. Weagle discussed an incident on North Side Road. Larry talked about an exception with a break down on the trail and getting back home late. Wheelock said in most cases if there's a legitimate excuse, he feels that most of the law enforcement will work with you.

Another resource has been put into place, Wayne Saunders retired from F&G, he has been brought on to the Sheriff Dept.; his job is to train for ATV Law enforcement – it will be an added benefit to have someone located in our area that is ATV law enforcement.

A. Rossetto - The vast majority of people riding in the day time are not the problem. If we have the alternate route off Page Hill; there will still be those that travel the road. There isn't any enforcement out there, he doesn't know who will take care of it. Greg Kenison said enforcement is the key; take the wheelers away, fine them. Mrs. Gregg commented she thought the clubs were going to help with patrolling. J. Weagle further discussed.

R. Charron asked what the hours will be at MOM's; he has a concern that the ATV's will be travelling up there even when they are not open. Meservey doesn't know what the hours will be yet. M. Phillips asked what the time line is on this. L. Meservey said if DOT doesn't give their blessings, it's a lot of work for nothing. The State won't approve it until the Select Board does.

J. Weagle closed the Public Hearing

Motion by: C. Wheelock - To allow ATV access, during the State designated season, to the portion of highway extending from the Northumberland Municipal Pool at 76 State Street to the "moose crossing" sign just beyond the Armstrong-Charron Funeral Home at 100 State Street. This stretch measures approximately 120 yards along Route 3 and would allow for access to MOM's It is all within a reduced speed zone.

2nd by: J. Weagle – 2 in Favor, 1 - Against.

b. Adjournment of the Public Hearing

J. Weagle adjourned the Public Hearing at 6:30 pm