

MEETING AGENDA
Williamstown ATV Trails Committee
Williamstown Public Safety Building, Williamstown, VT
September 24, 2019 – 6:30pm

1. Determination of quorum and open meeting.
2. Agenda revisions.
3. Consent agenda.
 - a. Minutes from 09/10/2019.
4. General public comments.
5. Updated proposed ATV trails map. (attached in agenda packet)
6. Public information mailing. (attached in agenda packet)
7. Discussion regarding other communities' experiences.
 - a. See packet of communications available on Williamstown website at <http://williamstownvt.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/20190828-atvtrailscomm-townmgrcommunication.pdf>.
8. Review the "Williamstown ATV Trails Committee Guidelines" document (in packet).
9. Future agenda items.
10. Assignment of non-meeting duties.
11. Committee round table.
12. Adjournment.

Rama Schneider, Chair
Williamstown ATV Trails Committee

Chair's notes: The meeting is scheduled to last two hours, and I expect to adhere to that timeline unless the committee by majority vote decides otherwise. The consent agenda consists of routine items that can be handled with a single vote of the committee.

MINUTES
Williamstown ATV Trails Committee
Williamstown Public Safety Building, Williamstown, VT
September 10, 2019 – 6:30pm

1. Determination of quorum and open meeting.

The following committee were present: Beth Allen, Shaun Boyce, Rich Chalmers, Lloyd MacCormick Jr, Mike Martel, Travis Pierce, Gordon Pirie, Mike St Lawrence, and Rama Schneider. A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 6:35pm.

2. Agenda revisions.

None.

3. Committee members introduction.

No introductions were felt to be necessary either by the visiting public or committee.

4. Consent agenda.

- a. Minutes from 08/20/2019 (in packet).

Consent approved without objection.

5. General public comments.

None.

6. Committee goal.

- a. Proposed resolution: The Williamstown ATV Trails Committee will have a public presentation prepared no later than January 7, 2020. This presentation may or may not contain a proposal for an ordinance, policy, or other official town directive regarding the use by ATVs of town roads.

Resolution was approved unanimously.

7. Review work performed by committee members outside the committee meeting.

- a. Town wide mailing costs and will select board support with financing.

The select board has agreed to finance one town wide mailing on behalf of the ATV trails committee.

- b. Communications received by town manager regarding other communities efforts on ATV trails ordinances.

Information has been posted to the committee web page.

- c. Contents of town wide informational mailing.

Discussion of size and contents of mailing. The mailing will come back for final disposition at the next committee meeting.

- d. Google map of current state of ATV trails proposal.

The current draft of the proposed roads to be included in a possible ATV ordinance was presented and some corrections noted. The map will be presented with corrections at the next meeting.

8. Continue work on the “Williamstown ATV Trails Committee Guidelines” document (in packet).

The committee completed the committee guidelines document and approved the guidelines by unanimous voice vote.

9. Future agenda items.

- Begin drafting list of legal questions.
- Finalize public communication.
- Start working off the guidelines – start with other communities. Invite the Williamstown town manager to this discussion.

10. Assignment of non-meeting duties.

Rama Schneider – Find out if committee mailing can be a tri-fold. Would a map graphic change the pricing? Could we do color?

Beth Allen, Rich Chalmers – Create final public communication proposal.

Shaun Boyce, Travis Pierce – Make corrections to map.

11. Committee round table.

12. Adjournment.

Rama Schneider, Chair
Williamstown ATV Trails Committee

Chair’s notes: The meeting is scheduled to last two hours, and I expect to adhere to that timeline unless the committee by majority vote decides otherwise. The consent agenda consists of routine items that can be handled with a single vote of the committee. The proposed motion in item #6 is for opening discussion, and the committee may at its pleasure not make a motion, make changes to the proposed motion, or not approve any motion at the committee’s pleasure.

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Mailing Address (1/2 page)

TO: Williamstown Residents and Property Owners

RE: Williamstown ATV Ordinance

There is a proposed ATV ordinance before the Select Board that would establish an ATV trail network on Town class 3 and class 4 roads.

A committee was formed to evaluate what this proposal would mean for the Town.

This mailer is designed to provide you with basic information.

For more details, including a Committee meeting schedule, visit the Town website at <http://williamstownvt.org/atv-trails-committee>

We welcome your input! Write to us at twnmgr@williamstownvt.org and please attend Committee meetings.

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Dear Williamstown Residents and Property Owners,

We are writing to inform you of a proposed Town ordinance regarding the use of public roads to allow development of an ATV trail system in Williamston and the activities of our newly formed ATV Committee, which is reviewing and evaluating this proposal.

In connection with this, we welcome your feedback and opinions on this proposal and the various issues that may arise as we further study this. All information associated with our work on this issue, including the initial proposal, is and will be posted on the Town website at: <http://williamstownvt.org/atv-trails-committee>

Details of the Proposed Ordinance

- This proposal is a draft and may change in the future.
- The proposed ATV trail system will use roughly 18 miles of class 3 and class 4 Town roads, connecting Williamstown with the Town of Washington and beyond.
- See the map on page 4 for trail and road details. These may change if landowners approve access through private land, such as is done for snowmobile trails.
- The Vermont ATV Sportsman's Association (VASA), will supervise trail and road use, including hiring additional law enforcement, promotion of the trail system and its maintenance.
- Use of the trail system will be open to anyone with a VASA Trail Access Decal (TAD).
- ATV's shall not be operated on public bike paths or hiking trails or on V.A.S.T. snowmobile trails unless the property owner has signed a VASA Landowner Permission form.
- ATV operation on the trail/road network is permitted between 7 am and 11 pm, from May 15th to November 15th.

- Town residents with a valid TAD may ride on non-trail roads (via the shortest route possible) to access the trail system.

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The responsibilities of the ATV Committee include:

- Making an unbiased determination of whether or not any proposed ordinance is in the best interest of the Town and if so, where it may be allowed, for whom and how it may be regulated
- Communicating with Town residents and property owners about these issues
- Reviewing the experiences of other towns in Vermont and New England that may have adopted similar proposals
- Collecting and evaluating information associated with road safety for ATV and automobile/truck travel on public class 3 and 4 roads
- Collecting information associated with potential quality of life and property valuation effects, including noise, traffic volumes, etc.
- Evaluation of funding and sources (including VASA), to determine and understand capacity of policing and trail/road construction and maintenance
- Considering both potential economic benefits from ATV-related tourism and potential negative effects on other tourism (hunting, hiking, fishing, horseback riding, other outdoor recreation, etc.) and second home ownership
- Collecting information on environmental and wildlife impacts from trail development and use

Based on this work, the Committee will make a presentation to the Selectboard no later than January 7, 2020. The Selectboard may choose to approve or deny a modified ordinance or bring an ordinance to a vote at Town Meeting in March of 2020.

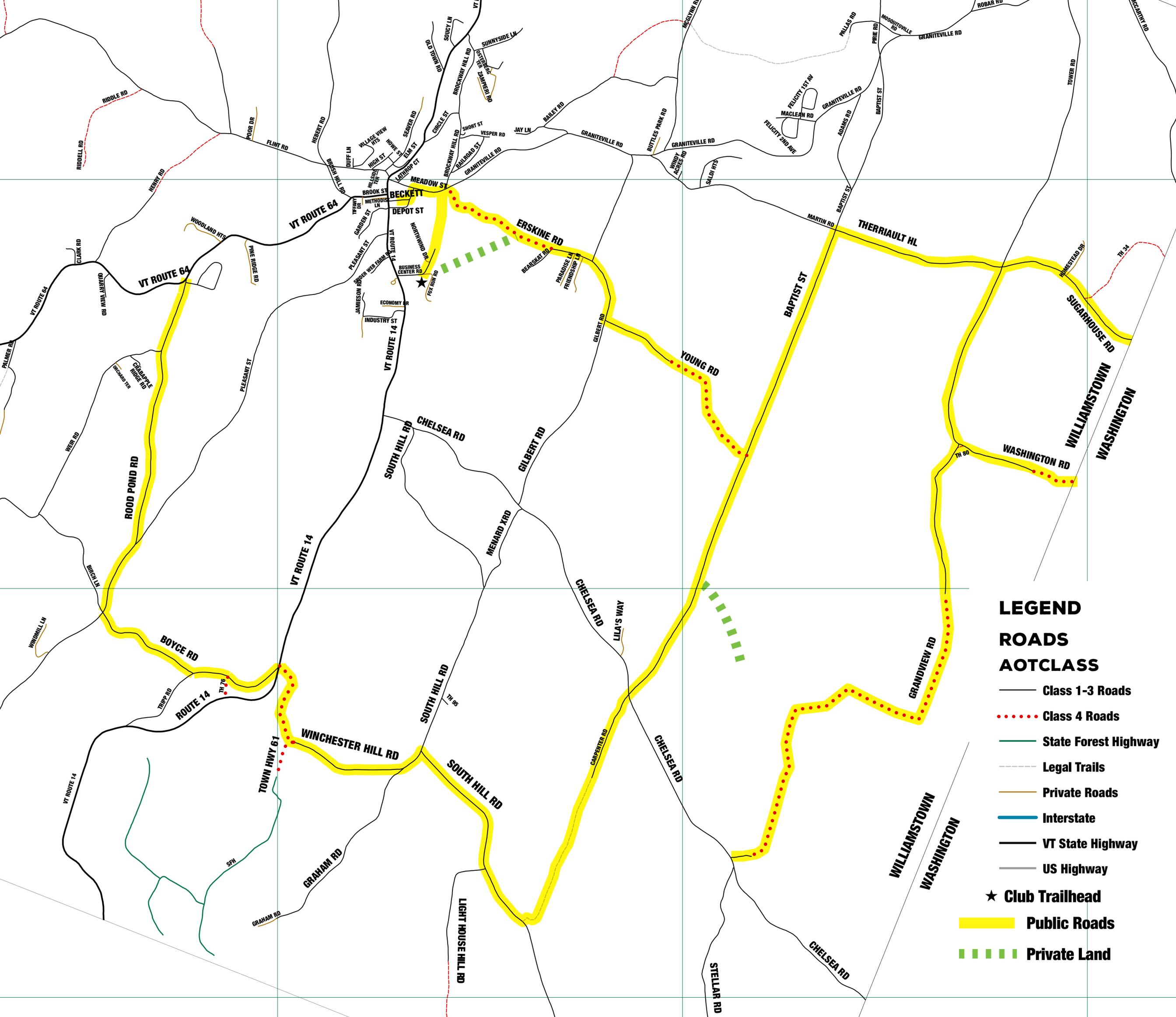
If you have perspectives or opinions on this issue, we would like to hear from you! Please write to us at twmng@williamstownvt.org and attend the Committee meetings (schedule on website). If you would like to be notified of public meetings associated with this issue, please send us your e-mail address and we will do so.

Sincerely,

The Williamstown ATV Committee

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Map of trail/road network



LEGEND

ROADS
AOTCLASS

-  Class 1-3 Roads
-  Class 4 Roads
-  State Forest Highway
-  Legal Trails
-  Private Roads
-  Interstate
-  VT State Highway
-  US Highway

★ Club Trailhead

 Public Roads

 Private Land