

Town of Williamstown  
P.O.Box 646 2470 VT Rte 14  
Williamstown, VT 05679

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## ***POSTAL CUSTOMER***

**TO: Williamstown Residents and Property Owners**

**RE: Proposed 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 Committee Chair Rama Schneider at [rama@ramabahama.net](mailto:rama@ramabahama.net) or call 802-433-5441 and please attend Committee meetings.

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 would 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), would oversee trail and road use, including hiring additional law enforcement, promotion of the trail system and its maintenance.
- Use of the trail system would 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 would be permitted between 7 am and 11 pm, from May 15<sup>th</sup> to October 15<sup>th</sup>.

## 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

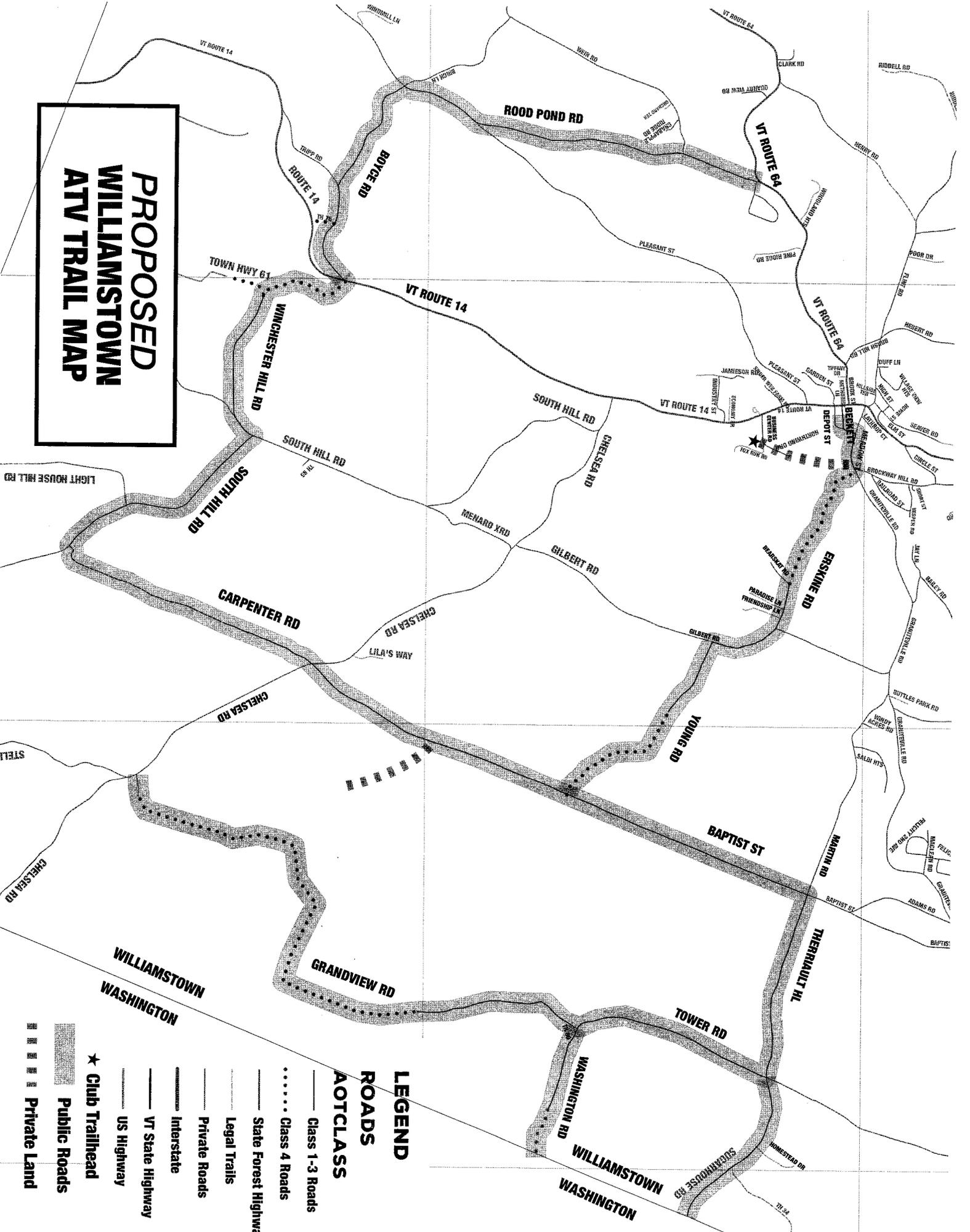
Based on this work, the Committee will make a presentation to the Selectboard no later than January 7, 2020. The Selectboard may choose to approve or deny a modified ordinance or bring an ordinance to a vote at Town Meeting in March of 2020.

If you have perspectives or opinions on this issue, we would like to hear from you! Please contact the Committee via Committee Chair Rama Schneider at [rama@ramabahama.net](mailto:rama@ramabahama.net) or 802-433-5441 and attend the Committee meetings (see 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

# PROPOSED WILLIAMSTOWN ATV TRAIL MAP



- LEGEND**
- ROADS**
- Class 1-3 Roads
  - ..... Class 4 Roads
  - State Forest Highway
  - Legal Trails
  - Private Roads
  - Interstate
  - VT State Highway
  - US Highway
- AOTCLASS**
- ★ Club Trailhead
  - Public Roads
  - Private Land