

The following are Williamstown ATV trails committee communications received by committee chair Rama Schneider via email from 10/22 through 10/24/19.

Greetings,

I'm a resident of Williamstown and live on one of the roads that is on the proposed ATV Network Map that was sent out to the residents of Williamstown.

I'm all about recreation and enjoy going for a ride on the side by side or 4 wheelers - I think this is great idea. A few questions I have pertaining to the proposed ATV Trail Network in the town of Williamstown are the following:

1. A proposed ordinance; The Vermont ATV Sportsman Association (VASA), would oversee the trail and road use. Including hiring additional law enforcement, promotion of the trail system and its maintenance - Who would be the agency that is hired (Orange County Sheriff, F&G, VSP) and how much of a presence would there be to oversee that proper safety is being exercised to include speed, registration, hours, operable equipment such as all lights, and insurance (if required to travel on Class 3 and 4 roads)? I can assure that on the eastern boundaries of your map, there's only a LE presence when they are called, it's not a routine beat at all.

2. What is the budget for LE and is this just through VASA or is the town going to assist as well?

3. Road maintenance is an issue on some of these town roads outlined on the proposed ATV Map; My inclination is that with how some of the roads are maintained now and the fact that individuals are already driving on the roads with ATV's - That if there's no Policing / LE presence and better maintenance on these roads (at least the Class 3) that eventually these roads will be worse than they are now and safety will be a big factor. With the lack of ditch work that's' been down over the past 5 years or so, there has been a lot of washouts on the sides of the roads to a point it has choked / narrowed the roads in many areas. Areas of these road you can't even travel the posted speed limit, or, you have to slow down to a crawl when passing a vehicle from the opposite direction. I believe some road maintenance should be done prior to opening up the roads to ATVs.

To reiterate my previous comment - I'm all about it and think it's a great idea however I believe that roads need better attention for the motor vehicle traffic let alone adding ATVs to the equation.

Respectfully,

SFC George A. Thomson  
Readiness NCO  
HHC 3-172 IN (MTN)  
13 Mountain School Road  
Jericho, VT 05465

Hello Rama and committee members,

First I'd like to thank you all for taking time to work on this issue. I hope an equitable solution can be reached in a respectful way.

Since I don't actually live on one of the proposed routes (by the way, *thank you* very much for the map) I'm not sure how much my opinion will count. But I do walk Boyce road nearly every day, and have friends there who are deeply concerned, so feel motivated to voice my concerns.

I live on Route 14. The loud traffic on that road drives me crazy. To escape for awhile I walk up Tripp road and Boyce. The thought that I might encounter ATVs on Boyce is disturbing, as I'm there to get away from that noise. From one of the public meetings I discovered that at least some of these roads were included so members wouldn't have to trailer. This is our mutual misfortune - as I'm a boater and have no choice but to trailer. I don't see that irritating neighbors just to save the trouble of trailering is a viable argument - just our tough luck getting hooked on hobbies that require it.

ATV riders can't blame neighbors for being against the idea of allowing them on roads. Most of us live in rural areas because we enjoy close proximity to nature - and the peace it usually means. I think it should be the responsibility of the ATV group to go door to door on the proposed routes to hear what neighbors think. If there's even one dissenting property owner on a route, I think that should eliminate that road. *ATVers can't be angry with these people. Their daily quality of life would be affected, and it would be hugely unfair for them to suffer for the sake of someone's hobby.*

Regarding the hours - till 11 o'clock? I'm afraid I find that blatantly unfair to property owners, since many folks would've gone to bed before then. I think at the very latest 9:00 pm would be more reasonable.

I don't envy the job of the committee. The meetings I attended made it very clear there's a deep divide. But I have enormous respect for all of you for trying to find common ground.

Regards,  
Dan Thorington  
5800 VT Route 14  
Williamstown

Hi Rama,

I received the mail about the proposed ATV ordinance and have studied it thoroughly. I have more than some issues with this proposal.

#1: the publication states and I will quote "The proposed ATV trail system would use roughly 18 miles of class 3 and class 4 town roads."

A: This does not indicate that any class 2 roads would be used. Sections of Rood Pond Road are highlighted on the map to be used as part of the trail system. Rood Pond road is a Class 2 road.

B: The trail on Rood Pond Road dead ends at the junction of Rte. 64. I can certainly expect to see two way (racing ) traffic on Rood Pond Road by ATVs.

C: How can the town be not liable for lawsuits involving accidents between Registered Motor Vehicles on Class 2 and even Class 3 Roads in Williamstown?

Sincerely,  
Robert Cummings

Rama...

Having received the recent mailing on the proposed Williamstown Trail Map, please accept these following comments and observations.

Assuming the purpose of this network as stated by proponents is to connect with trails in Washington, Orange, etc., we fail to see why Tripp, Boyce Rd. and the northern half of Rood Pond Rd., which lead to nowhere, are on this map. The only purpose could be that there are large numbers of residents on Rood Pond Rd. that want to make their way to Washington. Knowing the residents of these roads, we do not believe that this is the case so all this does is create a road for ATVs to ride back and forth on.

It will also encourage riders from other towns, to follow these approved roads to follow it to where it ends at Rte. 64 and turn around and go back. It makes no sense in terms of the broader goal of accessing other trail networks.

It should be noted that all 19 residents of Boyce and Tripp Rds. petitioned not to have these roads included and the petition is on file with the Town Website.

We continue to appreciate the work of the ATV Committee and your willingness to help resolve the many issues associated with this proposal.

One of our main concerns is the additional traffic on Rood, Boyce and Tripp, which have already seen their share of accidents, in our case with vehicles ending in stream beside road dividing our farmland, and the general disruption of rural peace that so many residents have listed as a priority.

Dirt and gravel roads are meant for legal roadworthy vehicles to drive safely from one destination to another, not for joy riding, which will certainly be the case as historically proven, by non-legal 4 wheelers being allowed between 7 am and 11 pm! ...not exactly the family oriented picture presented by the ATV community.

Respectfully Submitted..

Kathi and Dick Flies