

TOWN OF WILLIAMSTOWN
ORDINANCE REGULATING
ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLE USE ON TOWN HIGHWAYS

SECTION I – AUTHORITY

Under authority granted in 24 V.S.A. Chapter 59, 24 V.S.A §2291(4) and 23 V.S.A §3510, the Selectboard of the Town of Williamstown hereby adopts the following civil ordinance regulating the time, manner and location of operation of all-terrain vehicles on town highways.

SECTION II – PURPOSE

The purpose of this ordinance is to protect the health and safety of operators of all-terrain vehicles and the residents of the town, and to protect the animals, property and environment of the town.

SECTION III – DEFINITIONS

- a. "All-terrain vehicle" or "ATV" (defined under 23 V.S.A. §3501(5)) means any non-highway recreational vehicle, except snowmobiles, having no less than two low pressure tires (10 pounds per square inch, or less), not wider than 64 inches with two-wheel ATVs having permanent, full-time power to both wheels, and having a dry weight of less than 1,700 pounds, when used for cross-country travel on trails or on any one of the following or a combination thereof: land, water, snow, ice, marsh, swampland, and natural terrain. An ATV on a public highway shall be considered a motor vehicle, as defined in section 4 of this title, only for the purposes of those offenses listed in subdivisions 2502(a)(1)(H), (N), (R), (U), (Y), (FF), (GG), (II), and (AAA); (2)(A) and (B); (3)(A), (B), (C), and (D); (4)(A) and (B) and (5) of this title and as provided in section 1201 of this title. An ATV shall not include an electric personal assistive mobility device.
- b. "Operate" (defined under 23 V.S.A §3501(3)) includes an attempt to operate and shall be construed to cover all matters and things connected with the presence and use of all-terrain vehicles whether they be at motion or rest.
- c. "VASA" means the Vermont ATV Sportsman's Association.
- d. "TAD" means VASA Trail Access Decal.

SECTION IV – OPERATION OF ATV's

- a. All ATVs must be registered, insured and operated by someone with a valid state drivers license according to requirements of 23 V.S.A Chapter 31 and additional requirements.
- b. A valid VASA TAD must be attached to the front and rear of the ATV in order to ride on VASA trails.
- c. Helmets are required to ride all VASA trails and participate in all VASA events on an ATV unless it has appropriate roll cage and seat belts.
- d. All-terrain vehicles may be operated only on the following town highways:
 - i. Business Center Rd from Route 14 to Hebert Construction
 - ii. Erskine Rd from Meadow St to Gilbert Rd
 - iii. Gilbert Rd from Erskine Rd to Young Rd
 - iv. Young Rd from Gilbert Rd to Baptist St
 - v. Baptist St from Therriault Hill to Chelsea Rd
 - vi. Carpenter Rd From Chelsea Rd to South Hill Rd
 - vii. South Hill Rd from Carpenter Rd to Graham Rd
 - viii. Graham Rd from South Hill Rd to Winchester Hill Rd
 - ix. Winchester Hill Rd from Graham Rd to Route 14
 - x. Tripp Rd from Route 14 to Boyce Rd
 - xi. Boyce Rd from Tripp Rd to Rood Pond Rd
 - xii. Rood Pond Rd from Boyce Rd to Route 64
 - xiii. Grandview Rd from Chelsea Rd to Tower Rd
 - xiv. Tower Rd from Grandview Rd to Sugar House Rd/Therriault Hill
 - xv. Therriault Hill from Baptist St to Tower Rd
 - xvi. Sugar House Rd from Tower Rd to Highland Hill Rd/Washington Town Line
 - xvii. Washington Rd from Tower Rd to Macdonald Rd/Washington Town Line
 - xviii. Meadow St from Erskine Rd to Depot St
 - xix. Depot St from Meadow St to Beckett St

- xx. Beckett St from Depot St to where it turns to a one-way street
- e. All-terrain vehicles 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.
- f. Speed limit on Town highways is 20 mph highways unless otherwise posted.
- g. ATVs may be operated on Town highways only between 8 A.M. and 9 P.M.
- h. ATVs may only be operated on Town highways between May 15th and October 15th.
- i. All Town highways open for ATV travel must be appropriately signed.
- j. Yearly Review of this ordinance to take place the first select board meeting in January after 2020
- k. Club must make a valid effort yearly to get off roads and on to private land with landowner permission slips.
- l. Affected property owners shall have the right to petition the Town to add or remove from usage that portion of any town highway proposed to be part of the club sponsored corridor trail for the ensuing year provided they obtain the signatures of a minimum of simple majority of all affected property owners bordering such portion of the club sponsored trail. Such addition or removal shall be at the discretion of the select board by a decision made at a regular meeting, and, if granted, shall take effect immediately . Thereafter the club may submit alternatives to the disqualified section.

SECTION V – PENALTIES

- a. First offense\$50.00, waiver fee \$35.00
- b. Second offense\$100.00, waiver fee \$70.00
- c. Third and each subsequent offense\$250.00, waiver fee \$225.00

SECTION VI – ENFORCEMENT

This is a civil ordinance and shall be enforced by any certified law enforcement officer through the Judicial Bureau.

SECTION VII – SEVERABILITY

If any section of this ordinance is held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such finding shall not invalidate any other part of this ordinance.

SECTION VIII – EFFECTIVE DATE

This ordinance shall become effective 60 days after its adoption by the Williamstown Selectboard and shall supersede and replace all previous ordinances regulating the Time, manner, and location of operation of all-terrain vehicles. If a petition is filed under 24 V.S.A. section 1973, that statute shall govern the taking effect of this ordinance.

Dated this 13th day of January, 2020.

WILLIAMSTOWN SELECTBOARD

**Matt Rouleau /s/
Jessica Worn /s/**

**Francis Covey /s/
Jasmin Couillard /s/**