

Notes - ATV meeting 12/9/21

Attending -

Jess Tatro / Carol Fachini / Marta Miller / Natalie Yorke / Brandon Field / Rob Buchard / Dave Tatro

Jess nominates Carol Fachini for Chair of ATV sub-committee

Deb Buchard says that SB members who sit on the sub committee cannot vote

How does sub-committee member who is also in the SB interact with SB ?

Lori was called in to answer the question

Marta says that some members are feeling outnumbered and their mandate was to research and report back - How to convey all of the info gathered so both sides feel represented

Natalie presents a proposition based on Robert's Rules -

1. someone nominates a person to chair
2. nominations come from the floor - anyone on the committee makes a nomination
3. Rolecall vote - if more than one person is nominated then secretary records number of votes for each candidate

BUT question remains - can SB members vote?

Natalie nominates Marta Miller as Chair of committee.

Dave Tatro brings up ethics problem with a SB member being chairman of the subcommittee

3 options per Jess Tatro :

1. go ahead with vote or
2. disband or
3. report separately to SB

Natalie - go to SB on Dec 16 - each side gives a mini report and ask the SB if we should disband.

Rob Buchard : Can the SB give a list of questions and tell us what they are looking for.

Natalie - why don't we do a mini report for each side on the 16th? Tell them that we don't feel like we are moving forward are there any questions that you can send us back to answer. Final comprehensive report in February.

Lori found that Vermont League of Cities and Towns says that SB members can sit on sub committees but it is silent on whether they can vote

Natalie makes a motion that separate mini reports be presented on SB on Dec 16th and ask SB what more information they would like. Each side will make a final report on a date selected by SB in February.

Rob - this may be the solution because we have questions about who votes

Deb Buchard asks if people other than sub committee members will be invited to present at the SB meetings

It was agreed that no visitors would be invited. Rob Buchard suggested that Martina the NF person be allowed to come to hear the information but not speak. There was no resolution.

The motion was passed.

A motion to table the discussion about a chairperson and the ethics discussion.
Motion passed.

Carol Fachini's name is mis-spelled in October notes - will be corrected.

Sucker Pond Trail Discussion - Jess Tatro addresses 2 SB members who sit on ATV committee (Carol Fachini and Brandon Field). What does SB have questions about?

Rob Buchard says building out and designating parking area is entirely up to the town. Trail project can still go through without parking lot. There could be a kiosk right at the high tension wire area instead of parking lot.

Pam Tworig: Mike Smith said parking lot was designed for trucks and trailers - but now it is being referred to as a lot for 4 or 5 cars?

National Forest reps asked SB about doing some work on trails but SB turned them down. (about a year ago)

Rob spoke to company called ONX map - which lists Stamford Pond Road as a legal road to travel but it is not. ONX would not remove it. This would stop traffic coming down from (?) NF wants to funnel traffic into one road (not mentioned what road)

Natalie asked about signage. Even if the roads stay closed, the town is going to have to post signage indicating that roads are closed. NF has a signage section in their report.

Pam - if SB gets NF to agree that there will never be a parking lot. If Sucker Pond trail goes to County Road how does the Stamford Ridgeriders Club foresee parking? Rob says that now the Heartwellville parking is the place.

Jess says that at the moment there are 3 choices

1. Ride illegally
2. Work with SB to create a town ordinance that allows residents to ride on town roads. And creates trails that are not VASA trails for local riders who would have a town sticker.
3. We all trailer to some legal parking lot

Stickers require liability insurance.

Suggestion made - Groups of 1 or 2 (or whatever number is decided) be allowed to ride between trails and on the local trails. This could be stipulated in an ordinance.

Discussion about discrimination in using stickers for local riders. Natalie says there are towns in Vermont doing this and could be used as legal precedent. (grandfather clause)

Pam - biggest reason why there is so much resistance to allowing VASA in is that ATV rules are unenforceable. when there are hundreds of tourists - gates are open - once they are here, there is nothing to stop them from illegal activity. Goal of VASA is ATV Tourism. Townspeople do not want that. It is an issue because we are looking at what is happening in Readsboro.

The contrast is local (Stamford) riders vs VASA riders from all over the Northeast.

Rob Buchard says that if you don't put some controls on the riding, there will be more illegal activity. Natalie points out that there is no enforcement now and there will not be any if we open trails.

Marta - there is already a big network of trails that are not close to homes, so rather than open any of the public roads, why not have NF redirect into Pownal. Compromise would be keep things the way they are. Stamford town roads will not be VASA roads. Quietly, Stamford residents will continue to access the Sucker Pond Trail via County Road as they do currently, but it would not be on any maps.

OR - NF just re routed a snow mobile trail so why not ask the SB to recommend re-routing the ATV trail to Pownal?

Selectboard questions on the table.

Parking lot - Signage - Sheriff and enforcement.

Neither side wants parking lot because it invites people from all over.

Laura suggests that a parking lot might eliminate partying.

Bruce Richardson - Environmental standpoint - allowing Sucker Pond trail to be repaired and maintained is the only way that rehab can happen to any of that land. Possible blocking illegal trails with stones and boulders.

There is \$115,000 from VASA for trail repair.

Marta says - we don't have any problem with repairs on trails in the National Forest but we cannot allow them (VASA) to have any control over our town roads.

Big concern about County Road becoming an ATV highway

Jack Pines came and made the proposal - but Stamford Citizens did not want to let an outside club in, that is why Stamford Ridge Riders was formed so that there would become local control.

Jess Tatro -

Summary of history - town residents said we want a local club - we talked to Jack Pines and VASA. Our goal is to work with the town to see what we can do to make riding more legal and safe. I don't want my kids to run from the cops. We have to be VASA in order to be a club. We are trying to work on Sucker Pond Trail.

Pam - If Stamford Ridge Riders joined Jack Pines they can get a TAD (Trail Access Detail.)

Question posed by Natalie - Why do you need to be members of VASA - aside from the financial incentive? Jess responds: My assumption is that the only way I can legally ride is to be a member of VASA. (That assumption seems to be in dispute).

