

**FINAL**



**Town of Henniker  
OHRV Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, October 26, 2021  
Henniker Community Center**

**Members Present:** Kris Blomback, Matt French, Jim Morse, Beth Patenaude, Kathy Anderson, Scott Dias, Ross Bennett.

**Members Absent:** Leo Aucoin, Robert Pagano, Paul Sheppard

**Recording Secretary:** Ross Bennett

**Guests:** Rachael Lang, Lori Hubbard, Will Hubbard, Chris Woodbury, Keith DeMoura, Nancy DeMoura, Burns Barford, Greg Marsh

- Call to order/Attendance
- Public Comment - None
- Approval of Minutes - Committee approved June 2021 Meeting minutes unanimously (7-0-0).
- Safety
  - Matt French presented on statistics – there have been 19 complaints to date in 2021, compared to 14 over a similar period in 2019. Matt didn't compare to 2020 because 2020 was anomalous due to COVID. There was one DWI arrest. There were several calls from Dodge Hill Road and additional enforcement attention may be needed there. Matt indicated there was enough state enforcement grant money left for the first couple months of the 2022 season, and that another grant application was in progress.
  - A member of the committee indicated that there were no further complaints from Mount Hunger Road residents. Ross Bennett indicated that he'd heard from Mount Hunger Road residents and they were still disturbed by the noise, dust and traffic associated with OHRV use of the town road. Jim indicated that they should reach out to the OHRV Club for a solution. Ross indicated that the solution should be provided by this Committee, not through referring people to the Club. Jim re-iterated that they should reach out to the OHRV Club because it has connections with Fish and Game for enforcement. Jim indicated that he'd been up on Mount Hunger Road and hadn't seen much OHRV traffic, but he acknowledged that his job prevented him from getting up there during prime trail/road usage (10-2 on weekend). Ross indicated that he had conducted some observations of Mount Hunger Road during prime weekend hours, and the volume of OHRV traffic is significant in terms of number of vehicles and noise. Jim indicated that 10-2 on the weekends was when the OHRV Club focused it's patrols.
  - Ross asked if the selectmen had heard anything else from residents on Dodge Hill Road since the March meeting? Kris indicated that he didn't recall any correspondence from Dodge Hill Road. Jim indicated that the OHRV Club was planning to patrol Dodge Hill Road more.
- New Members: Jim introduced newly appointed members Kathy Anderson (present) and Bob Pagano (not present).

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- Roads/signs:
  - Ross raised the issue of the Town of Warner's request from July 2021 for additional signage at the base of Mink Hills Road. Jim indicated that the club has confirmed that there are "no ATV" signs at the Warner Town line. Ross indicated that the Town of Warner request was not regarding posting at the town line, but was asking for posting at the base of Mink Hills Road so that riders had advance notice that the trail was closed ahead. Beth and Burns Bradford (President, OHRV Club) indicated that additional signage at the bottom of Mink Hills Road would only cause confusion. Ross indicated that the signs could say "Trail Closed at Town Line, X.X miles ahead" which would be consistent with some of the "Restaurant X.X. Miles ahead" signs he's seen on the trail, which don't seem to cause confusion. Ross indicated that this was a simple request from a neighboring town, and it seemed like the Committee should accommodate it. Jim re-iterated that the existing signage was sufficient and additional signage would cause confusion.
- Town Report Article: Jim circulated a draft of a 2021 town report article. Ross suggested that the phrase "The committee dealt with a petition to close a road..." be changed to "The committee received a petition to close a road". Ross circulated a copy of the 2020 town report article (attached), which included statements that there were "very few complaints or issues" around OHRVs in 2020. Ross indicated that this statement was in contrast to the discussions that the committee had during the June 2020 meetings where it was acknowledged that 2020 was a record year for OHRV complaints and Pat's Peak had to close their parking lot to OHRVs. Ross suggested that the 2021 Town Report article should include a correction statement regarding the 2020 complaint statistics. Jim indicated that Matt had reviewed the article and 39 complaints wasn't very many, and was insignificant in the context of COVID. Jim asked Matt how many complaints the police receive on a weekly basis for all issues (not just OHRVs), Matt indicated 10 complaints per week. Jim indicated that 39 complaints was small relative to what the police receive regularly. Ross indicated that we just heard that there were 19 complaints in 2021, 39 complaints in 2020, and approximately 19 complaints in 2019. Ross expressed concerns that, in that context, the number of complaints in 2020 was significant, but the town report article says the opposite. Scott Dias indicated that the 2020 report article was in the past and we should move on, the number of complaints is noted in our minutes. Ross indicated that he looked for the June 2020 minutes this afternoon, and they were not posted on the Town website. Ross indicated he was working with the secretary this afternoon to get the 2020 minutes posted, but before he did, the town report article was the only record of 2020 complaints for the committee. Matt suggested that the 2021 Town Report article could include a summary statistic of complaints and stops from 2019-2021. Jim indicated that he'd need authorization to update the statistics with the latest numbers at the end of the season. Ross made a motion to accept the town report article, as amended, with the addition of a summary table of 2019-2021 police statistics. Motion passed (7-0-0)
- Ross asked if the OHRV Club had any trail expansion/closure, highway crossing, or grant funding plans (outside of enforcement) for 2022. Jim indicated that they didn't have any trail or highway crossing expansions planned, and in addition to the enforcement grant the Club would be getting a grant for calcium for dust control.
- Next meeting scheduled for June 28, 2022 at 6pm.
- Keith Demoura requested to speak as part of the second public comment. Keith indicated that he'd been at a NHOVA meeting recently and the Henniker PD was praised for their diligence in both patrolling and in keeping up with grant reporting. Keith thanked Chief French for his efforts on

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this front. Keith indicated that Henniker was consistently among the top three towns for enforcement expenditures under the grant program.

- Scott motion to adjourn, Ross seconded, motion passed (7-0-0).

### ATTACHMENT – 2020 Town Report Article

