



**Town of Henniker
OHRV Committee
Tuesday, March 23, 2021
Zoom**

Members Present: Jim Morse, Ross Bennett, Scott Dias, Paul Sheppard, Kris Blomback, Police Chief French, Beth Patenaude & Leo Aucoin

Members Excused: Drew Major, Bob Garrison, Stephanie Payuer

Recording Secretary: Kelly McCutcheon

Guests: Lee Martin, Thomas Butter, Richè Colcombe, Jenn McCourt, Greg Marsh, Burns Barford, Tom Patenaude, Elizabeth Butters, Bradford Fyfe, Chris Woodbury, Ticia Blanck & Heather Rosenbleeth

Public Comment #1: Chair Jim Morse opened the meeting for public comment besides the petition on Mt. Hunger Road which will be discussed later in the meeting.

Lee Martin, resident of Mt. Hunger Road, stated he was representing the people who signed the petition for Mt. Hunger and Butter Road when the item comes up.

Thomas Butters of Dodge Hill Road by the Hemlock Corner Loop, has lived at his property for 36 years and moved there for the tranquility and peace, and having ATV's going down Dodge Hill Road has really significantly deterrent to enjoying the weekends because of the noise and dust. Additionally, the ATVs eliminate the possibility for horse back riding and walking on the weekends that seems to disproportionately affect Dodge Hill Road by the Hemlock Corner Loop. Thomas has been told ATVs would not have use of that route due to the poor road quality. He stated the trails all interconnect and there is no reason for ATVs to use public roads and it is a very significant issue.

Ross Bennett asked if Thomas Butter has called Henniker Police to report the complaints. Thomas confirmed he had numerous times.

Richè Colcombe, resident of Hillsborough, follow up on Thomas Butters' comment on ATVS and feels the motorcycles and trucks create as much if not more dust, and as ATV rider herself, would like advocate to stay on the road. UTVs are allowed by law in NH and she do not wish to see ATVs singled out. Thomas Butters appreciated what Richè was saying but trucks and motorcycles don't go relentlessly down the road in convoys. Thomas has been living there for a long time and it is a very unique situation that's been created.

Jenn McCourt stated her agreement with Richè and appreciates 36 years ago Thomas moved there for peace and quiet, but we live in world where more and more people are populating the world, the has sport been around for 40 years even though it is newer to Thomas' area, we need to find ways to live together in this world and play nice in the sand box. DOT (Department of Transportation) put rumble

strips in front of Jenn's house that wake her up at 3am. She is very conscious of the dust and noise since she lives on one of the major roads for OHRVs and can tell you since committee started the Contoocook Valley Club, the club does a lot of trail patrols and has members going out and being respectful. She stated it is the yahoos that have diminished the lot, and the noise is for a couple minutes and its gone. She stated logging trucks when they hammer by house does not sound the same when OHRVs go by her house, which does not phase her. Jenn McCourt stated that some stuff is going to happen as our planet grows in population and we are just going to have to try our best to get along. She also stated the club had donated calcium to the Henniker Highway Department to help with keeping dust down.

Thomas Butters thanked everyone for listening to his concerns. Greg Marsh stated lives down the hill from Thomas Butters, is a member of the Contoocook Valley Club, has lived in the area for 5 years and respects the rights of his neighbors; but this past year has been different and he is unsure if it is because of COVID19 that more people are getting into the sport. Greg Marsh stated he has seen donuts being done by riders at 9pm and recommended dropping the speed limit from 20MPH to 10MPH from the Hemlock Corner Loop to the Foster Hill Conservation.

Lee Martin asked Richè Colcombe about OHRVs being road legal in NH and how he did not believe that was the case unless the vehicle had been licensed for a road legal version. Lee Martin stated he believed the rule made an exception for those vehicles on Mt. Hunger Road and Butter Road, and asked for clarification.

Richè Colcombe stated she was referring to UTVs can ride the roads with a license regardless of ATV statutes. Jim Morse confirmed in Henniker if a person has a street legal vehicle, they can ride any road under 40MPH or less under town ordinance. Richè Colcombe recommended defining UTV and ATV for everyone. Lee Martin thanked Richè Colcombe for the clarification.

Ross Bennett asked how UTVs work with a class 1 highway such as the crossing at 114 in Henniker. Jim Morse stated if the road is under 40MPH they can ride, but they cannot ride on the roads over 40MPH even if they are DMV (Department of Motor Vehicles) plated.

Jen McCourt stated that OHRVs can cross over 114 over 40MPH when crossing through a DOT approved crossings for everyone's clarification. She also stated the people complaining about UTVs on the road do not understand how difficult it is to tell if a vehicle is legal or not since Fish and Game officers also complain the plates are too small and cannot be seen unless a person is physically stopped.

Paul Sheppard stated that all UTVs and ATVs need to be registered, that registration money goes to the State and part of the money comes back to fund policing, but everything is registered one way or the other. Lee Martin thanked Paul for the information.

Burns Barford, President of the Contoocook Valley Club, stated there was a lot more activity last year for a number of reasons with COVID19 playing a huge factor which resulted in the north shutting down their large ATV trail system with a much later open date and earlier closing date. This resulted in pirate parking at Pat's Peak due to Henniker's easy accessibility and more people wanting to get out doors. This past summer the club purchased 2.5 tons of calcium of the town highway department to help with dust control, as well as buying a class 6 rake and increasing trail patrols. Member trail patrols do not issue tickets or cite riders, but try to speak with them about being respectful and not racing or drifting.

Burns Barford stated the club also put out a fair amount of signage last year where the max speed is 20MPH and 10PMH in places of high congestion.

Public comment #1 closed.

Minute's approval- tabled

Safety meeting- Police Chief French sent the OHRV committee data and locations where complaints were coming from and reviewed the data with the committee which included 160 stops and 41 complaints. Ross Bennett requested the data be attached with the minutes (see page 8).

Paul Sheppard stated the funding worked since more stops were made. Chief French stated the department was short staffed in the fall and was not able to accomplish as much as they had hoped and have held onto enough of the funding to cover 5 patrols for when the trails open and ideally another Fish and Game grant is approved. Chief French has applied again for the grant requesting \$3,000 and last year received \$2,700.

Scott Dias stated with north country being closed and COVID19 there was only one more arrest with the increased activity from residents and out of towners. He also noted the same number of accidents from the prior year even with the increased inexperienced riders out last year and believed the signage on the trails has helped.

Ross Bennett stated the number of complaints was abnormally high. Jim Morse stated no one was ready for last year and hopefully this year will come back to normal. Chief French stated the data from 2014-2016 did not have good record keeping since it was not computerized or tracked until 2017.

Chair Jim Morse asked Chief French about reasons why riders would be stopped. Chief French stated by statute the department is allowed to do safety checks, license check, registration check. Warnings are issued for improper driving and speeding. When riders are stopped the department makes sure they are licensed and registered.

Residents' concerns- petition on Mt. Hunger Road

Lee Martin stated he was not sure if the entire committee received the petition that was signed by 23 people to prohibit OHRV use on Mt. Hunger Road from Butter Road to Trail 15 and Butter Road from Gulf Road to Mt. Hunger Road. Everything east of trail 15 would be exempt and would let everyone still be able to get to the trails. This change would not restrict OHRV trail access.

Lee Martin stated there are a number of issues mainly being safety since it creates an unsafe situation with ATVs spooking horses which has only resulted in a broken finger so far. There is also the impact on runners and the neighborhood with OHRVs traveling in packs of 10 creating nuisance noise levels making it difficult to enjoy the property, which so far has 23 signatures on it. Ross Bennett requested both parts of the petition be attached to the minutes (see pages 9-13). Scott Dias stated that one signature owns 90 acres but does not live on the hill and that two other signatures live on Craney Hill. Lee Martin stated those signatures are riders since it is not the end of March and already ATV riders are going back and forth when the trails are not even open yet. Lee stated folks have talked about signage but there are no speed limits on Mt. Hunger Road although Leo Aucoin, Road Agent, said he would put some signs up.

Leo Aucion stated the signs he will put up are for motor vehicles at 25PMH which is the State legal dirt roads. Jim Morse stated he put up signs for OHRV at the start of the season last year and removed them at the end of the season. Ross Bennett asked if Lee Martin has success calling Henniker Police to enforce. Lee stated he offered to let the department sit in his driveway to stop folks who are abusing it and that maybe it would be better option to use roads for ATVs.

Scott Dias stated the roads are being used by the ATV members and clubs who are doing so respectfully and within the law and should be able to use the roads like the horses, walkers, and bikers and thinks it would be nice if everyone could work together to achieve a common goal to ride horses and not be rundown by a 4wheeler. But he does not want to limit to not use the road when the Christmas tree farm on the road brings in plenty of traffic in the fall.

Lee Martin stated he appreciated that view however roads are made for normal licensed and inspected cars, there is an exception for these OHRV vehicles that aren't road legal; the roads are for licensed vehicles, pedestrians and horses.

Lee Martin stated no one wants to stop anyone from getting on the trails, if the committee looks at the petition and what they are proposing. OHRV vehicles are granted a special exception to ride Mt. Hunger Road and Butter Road, and he understands everyone's positions but they do not live on the road and Lee does not know if the noise is coming from a group of club members or people from Massachusetts. He stated it would be better if everyone just stayed on the trails.

Ross Bennett stated Lee made a couple of good points and stated OHRVs are recreation use and have been granted an exception for recreation use that happens to be disruptive to residents. Club members can choose where they go and how loud they are, unlike residents who don't get to easily choose where they live and should be given lots of deference when dealing with these matters.

Kris Blomback ask Lee Martin if he had noticed any dramatic decline after Pat's Peak closed its parking lot. Lee Martin stated from May- October there was no noticeable difference and he is unsure how people are getting up MT. Hunger Road. He tried to talk to people a couple of times and get them to slow down but was brushed off or given looks of disdain. He stated there is not a lot of respect for people who pay taxes here.

Burns Barford asked Lee Martin if he has seen any activity recently and would greatly appreciate residents calling anytime they see someone that is not suppose to be out there. Lee Martin stated he takes notes the day it happens. Chief French stated 8 complaints came in from August – December 2020.

Elizbeth Butters commented on reporting ATV complaints to the police and how she had attempted to file a few complaints, but whom ever she spoke with told her she needed the driver's license number for the police to follow up on. Elizbeth stated her frustration at not being able to catch a driver going 40-50PMH at night with no lights on and that she gave up calling in to report. She stated it feels like a motor cycle gang was riding up every night on what use to be peaceful quite road, and that Mt. Hunger Road is not a recreational road, which is why OHRVs were granted the exception since they are not allowed on every road.

Ross Bennett encouraged everyone to keep calling Henniker Police because that is how the town has decided to track and report the statistics. He understands feeling like a jerk calling the police every weekend, but without the recorded statistics the committee cannot respond.

Chief French confirmed it is important to call and that if anyone does not receive satisfaction from dispatch or the station to call him directly. He stated not receiving feedback from dispatch or being blown off by dispatch or the station will be addressed personally by him.

Jenn McCourt stated that dirt roads are not all 25mph under state law and that if it is not posted it is 35MPH, and to reduce to 10mph requires a safety study. She stated UTVs are on the road certain times of year and are legal to be on the road without a license plate. She advised being careful in shutting down Mt. Hunger Road since it may increase traffic on Quaker Hill Street, which she did the redesign for and stated Mt. Hunger Road is an old cart road that has been expanded to handle modern vehicles and is safer for OHRVs going 25MPH around the curves than logging trucks and vehicles going 35MPH who also take up most of the road, and noted no one is complaining about the logging trucks. She also stated that it is the younger kids on average speeding and making noise while the older riders are going the speed limit or slower since they know people live in the area, and they try being respectful (see pages 14-15 for Jenn's email to Chair Jim Morse and Town Administrator Joe Devine).

Ross Bennett asked Jenn McCourt from a safety standpoint, would she characterize Mt. Hunger with vehicle traffic safer than plated. Jenn stated as long as everyone does the speed limits, they are supposed to the safety concerns are the same and it is about going the speed limit and being respectful.

Ross Bennett asked if the additional traffic does not create a safety issue. Jenn McCourt stated many cars and vehicles do not know what to do when they come upon a horse. Vehicles need to slow down to basically nothing to not scare a horse and cyclist also need to slowly pass horses. Jenn stated the gravel roads are 18-20 feet wide and if everyone is respectful and takes their time there shouldn't be any safety concerns, and that ATVs and UTVs are better built to handle the sharp turns than a car or a truck because they are built for that.

Road Agent concerns

Leo Aucoin had left the meeting. Chair Jim Morse stated Leo did put 44 tons of calcium. Ross Bennett asked what was being done this year regarding private parking at Pat's Peak and what controls will be in place and if from a zoning perspective, someone opening private parking for OHRV and the consequences. Kris Blomback stated that Pat's Peak will not be modifying their policy so parking will be restricted. Scott Dias stated any parking for profit would have to go before the Zoning and Planning Boards. Ross Bennett asked if the club plans to expand parking. Burns Barford stated there is no public parking for the club since it is for Henniker residents and the club does not offer or encourage places to park. Ross Bennett asked if there are plans for additions to the trail network this year. Burns Barford stated no.

Ross Bennett asked about road signs and the closure in Warner resulting in a dead-end trail and recommend updating the trail map as well as putting up a dead-end trail sign at the Goat Trail intersection because the dead end is not a great turn around. Beth Patenaude and Burns Barford agreed with Ross. Chair Jim Morse opened public comment #2

Public Comment #2

Bradford Fyfe, Trail Master of Contoocook Valley Club, understands people are becoming discouraged calling the police since they cannot see the plates, but encouraged them to try and get a description of the color, and size of OHRV just so the police have something to go on.

Scott Dias addressed the concerns of residents on Mt. Hunger and Butter Road and asked if it would be reasonable to reduce the speed limit of the area to 10mph to help with the horses and dust. Kris Blomback seconded. Paul Sheppard stated he is in favor but does not know if the committee can make the decision, and believes the committee can only give direction to the club.

Burns Barford stated they could lower the speeds from Chase Brook Trail all the way up and do more trail patrols in addition to more signage.

Chris Woodbury spoke regarding the multiuse on the roads in question. He lives on Davison Road, a legal ATV road and is an active runner and biker who has had great experience with motor vehicles and has seen ATV riders following the rules and keeping to OHRV trails. He greatly appreciates the work the club is doing.

Scott Dias moved to reduce the speed limit from 20MPH to 10MPH on Mt. Hunger Road and Butter Road for the concern of the citizens for multi-use, to keep it open for everyone to enjoy. Kris Blomback seconded.

Ross Bennett proposed amending to 10MPH for all class 5 roads in Henniker to implement on a town wide basis. No second.

Ross Bennett moved to proposed the Board of Selectmen make the change. No second.

Scott Dias stated the rest of the town does not seem to have an issue and to reduce traffic in all of town when two very narrow dirt roads are being most impacted. Kris Blomback stated the Board of Selectman tasked the OHRV Committee with settling the issue as the Selectmen do not want to be involved. Ross Bennett asked where it was established in the ordinance.

Chief French stated he could not remember the exact statutes but anything under 20MPH needs an entire safety study which is really impossible to get and why all the roads are posted at 20MPH for vehicle traffic as far as he knows.

Scott Dias rescinded his motion to reduce the speed limit from 20MPH to 10MPH on Mt. Hunger Road and Butter Road for the concern of the citizens for multi-use, to keep it open for everyone to enjoy. Kris Blomback seconded.

Beth Patenaude recommends posting "caution horses" signs so riders are aware that horses are nearby or in the road. Chair Jim Morse stated that is in the process.

Minutes of June 15, 2020 and June 22, 2020

Scott Dias moved to approve the June 15,2020 minutes as amended. Paul Sheppard seconded. Motion carried 7-0.

Scott Dias moved to approve the June 22,2020 minutes as presented. Beth Patenaude seconded. Motion carried 7-0.

Chair Jim Morse thanked Ross Bennett for doing the June minutes.

Lee Martin asked if he would still present to the Board of Selectmen since he had been asked to create a presentation for them. Kris Blomback stated the OHRV committee would need a majority vote and everything would need to be filed prior to the Selectmen meeting. Lee Martin asked to be cc'd on where things are going moving forward. Chair Jim Morse stated the committee is done but the President of the club will be reaching out and working with the neighborhood.

Ross Bennett moved to refer OHRV use on Mt. Hunger Road and Butter Road to the Board of Selectmen for potential modification on OHRVs to satisfy residents' concerns. No second

Chair Jim Morse stated the ATV club will handle it in their own way.

Next Meeting

June 30, 2021 at 6pm in the flesh at Town Hall.

Trails open

May 23, 2021

Chair Jim Morse moved to adjourn. Scott Dias seconded. Motion carried 7-0. Adjourn at 8pm.

Appendix with attached documents on the corresponding pages

Henniker Police Department statistics	page 8
Mt. Hunger Road Petition and supporting documents	Page 9- 13
Jennifer (Jenn) McCourt's Letter as emailed	Page 14 -15

HENNIKER POLICE DEPARTMENT
Call Analysis By Streets From 2020/01 Thru 2020/12

Page: 1

Date Range: Thru
Selected Personnel: Police
Selected Duty: All
Selected Post: All

Street	Activity	Totals
HENNIKER NH		
BRADFORD RD	1 - Not on file	OHRV STOP 8
BROWNS WAY	550 - Not on file	OHRV Complaint 2
	550 - Not on file	OHRV STOP 6
BUTTER RD	550 - Not on file	OHRV Complaint 1
COLBY HILL RD	550 - Not on file	OHRV Complaint 1
	550 - Not on file	OHRV STOP 13
COLLEAGUE POND RD	550 - Not on file	OHRV Complaint 2
CRANEY HILL RD	550 - Not on file	OHRV Complaint 1
DAVISON RD	HENNIKER	OHRV STOP 1
	550 - Not on file	OHRV Complaint 1
	550 - Not on file	OHRV STOP 2
DODGE HILL RD	HENNIKER	OHRV Complaint 4
	550 - Not on file	OHRV STOP 4
EMERY HILL RD	550 - Not on file	OHRV STOP 7
FLANDERS RD	550 - Not on file	OHRV STOP 1
GULF RD	550 - Not on file	OHRV Complaint 1
LIBERTY HILL RD	550 - Not on file	OHRV Complaint 3
	550 - Not on file	OHRV STOP 4
	550 - Not on file	OHRV INCIDENT OR CRASH 1
MAIN ST	1 - Not on file	OHRV Complaint 1
MT HUNGER RD	550 - Not on file	OHRV Complaint 2
OLD CONCORD RD	550 - Not on file	OHRV Complaint 1
OLD HAY RD	550 - Not on file	OHRV Complaint 1
OLD HILLSBORO RD	550 - Not on file	OHRV STOP 8
WATTERSON HILL RD	550 - Not on file	OHRV Complaint 1
	550 - Not on file	OHRV STOP 14
WAKER ST	550 - Not on file	OHRV Complaint 1
WAY RD	550 - Not on file	OHRV Complaint 3
WIVER RD	550 - Not on file	OHRV Complaint 1
WUFFLED RD	550 - Not on file	OHRV Complaint 4
WUSH RD	550 - Not on file	OHRV Complaint 1
WEMPLE RD	550 - Not on file	OHRV Complaint 1
WESTERN AVE	1 - Not on file	OHRV Complaint 1
	1 - Not on file	OHRV STOP 5
	550 - Not on file	OHRV Complaint 3
	550 - Not on file	OHRV STOP 5
Totals:		116

OHRV Stats Henniker PD

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Arrests	0	0	0	1	0	1	2
Summons	0	0	0	3	3	3	2
Warnings	0	0	2	9	19	12	10
Stops	0	5	4	33	25	41	88
Complaints	0	0	5	14	22	14	41
Crash			0	2	1	2	2

Petition to Close Mt. Hunger Road (from Morse Rd to Butter Rd) and Butter Road to OHRV Use

We the undersigned property owners are petitioning the OHRV Committee to prohibit OHRVs on Mt. Hunger Road (from Morse Rd to Butter Rd) and Butter Road. This change would not affect OHRV trail access. Numerous issues have arisen since the opening of our roads to OHRV use. The main issues are safety, noise, and speed. The multitude of sharp curves and hill crests (sometimes in combination) on Mt. Hunger and Butter Roads create an unsafe situation for horseback riders, walkers, runners, and bicyclists when OHRVs are traveling too fast and loudly. Just this past season, we have had several unsafe situations involving horseback riders (ATVs spooking horses due to speed and noise, causing a broken finger in one event), runners, and vehicles. The peaceful nature of our neighborhood is severely impacted by the noise generated by OHRVs. When you consider that we frequently have groups of 2-10 OHRVs traveling together, with each machine generating 85-96 decibels, their noise levels are a nuisance and disruptive to our ability to enjoy our properties.

Supporters:

Printed Name: Ed Ulmer Signed Name: Ed Ulmer
 Address: 727 Mt Hunger, Henniker, NH 03242
 Printed Name: Angie Hollins Signed Name: Angie Hollins
 Address: 1093 Craney Hill Rd Henniker, NH 03242
 Printed Name: ROBERT GRANT Signed Name: Robert Grant
 Address: 1093 CRANEY HILL RD. Henniker, NH 03242
 Printed Name: Niki Lambert Signed Name: Niki Lambert
 Address: 1067 Craney Hill Rd Henniker, NH 03242
 Printed Name: Maura Lawlor Signed Name: Maura Lawlor
 Address: 486 Mount Hunger Rd., Henniker, NH 03242
 Printed Name: Betsy KRAWITZ Signed Name: Betsy Krawitz
 Address: 235 Locust Ln. Henniker
 Printed Name: Jack Krawitz Signed Name: Jack Krawitz
 Address: 235 Locust Lane Henniker, NH
 Printed Name: STEVEN FORSTER Signed Name: Steven Forster
 Address: 347 MT HUNGER RD.

Printed Name: Tracy Bruen Signed Name: [Signature]
 Address: 347 Mt. Hunger Rd. Henniker
 Printed Name: Ticia Blauk Signed Name: [Signature]
 Address: 459 Huntington Rd. Henniker NH
 Printed Name: Megan Lawrence Signed Name: [Signature]
 Address: 402 Mount Hunger Rd, Henniker NH 03242
 Printed Name: Sarah Lawrence Signed Name: [Signature]
 Address: 402 Mount Hunger Rd, Henniker NH 03242
 Printed Name: Jeather Rosenbleeth Signed Name: Jeather Rosenbleeth
 Address: 105 Mount Hunger Rd. Henniker, NH 03242
 Printed Name: LEE MARTIN Signed Name: [Signature]
 Address: 105 Mount Hunger Rd Henniker NH 03242
 Printed Name: Brian Barrett Signed Name: [Signature]
 Address: 138 Butter Road Henniker NH 03242
 Printed Name: Eric Padden Signed Name: [Signature]
 Address: 459 Huntington Rd. Henniker
 Printed Name: Patricia Russell Signed Name: [Signature]
 Address: 418 Mount Hunger Rd, Henniker
 Printed Name: RICK PITARO Signed Name: [Signature]
 Address: 242 Butter Rd Henniker
 Printed Name: Maria Accornero Signed Name: [Signature]
 Address: 242 Butter Rd Henniker
 Printed Name: Loren Lambert Signed Name: [Signature]
 Address: 1067 Coney Hill Rd. Henniker
 Printed Name: LINDA FISH-BROWN Signed Name: [Signature]
 Address: 200 ALLIANCE WAY, MANCHESTER, NH 03102
 Printed Name: FRANK F. BROWN Signed Name: [Signature]

Address: 200 ALLIANCE WAY, MANCHESTER NH 03102
 Printed Name: TIM SEXTON Signed Name: [Signature]
 Address: 457 Butter Rd Henniker
 Printed Name: _____ Signed Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Printed Name: _____ Signed Name: _____
 Address: _____

Addendum to Petition to Close Mt. Hunger and Butter Roads to OHRV Use

We have a verbal commitment from Zach Lawson and Kerry (561 Mt. Hunger Rd., Henniker, NH) to sign the petition as soon as they are available.

①

Several years ago I approached the Town about opening the Butter Road to an ATV Trail and the concerns of what I was seeing with those using it.

There is an ATV Trail, approx 2 miles that runs from Flanders to Grafton that was already in place and still is to give ATV Riders access to this area and connecting trails.

Those who live here will pay a lot of property tax. In my opinion should not be subject to the abuse and disruption these riders are driving thru our neighborhood. It has become much worse since I first addressed this and last year was an example of this.

- 1) Riders last year started using the Butter Road in late March, a full 2 months before it was open.
- 2) Riders going at high rates of speed had escalated dramatically and those doing so also
- 3) When approached to slow down, it is met with anger, hand gestures and are swearing their machines towards those telling them to slow down
- # 4) This is unenforceable and the Henniker P.D. knows it.

(2)

as a Resident of Butte Road,
I support a closure of Butte Rd
and Mt Huggre, But I support also
leaving Citrus Road Trail, that has
always been there, as a means for ATV
riders to access this area and
connect to others.

Taxpayers who's property tax's
pay for the Town's Budget should not
be subject to this kind of abuse, noise
by one rider.

Bray Jones
2/28/2021

From: jennmcrt@gmail.com <jennmcrt@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2021 8:56 PM
To: 'Joe Devine' <Townadministrator@henniker.org>; 'Jim Morse' <morsesport@aol.com>
Subject: OHRV use on Butter and Mt. Hunger Road

Dear Joe,

It has come to my attention that a few of the property owners on Butter and Mt. Hunger Roads are looking to close them to OHRV use.

As you know I am an OHRV user and a civil engineer. Over the past 3 years I have spent a considerable time in the Quaker District on Quaker Street during the design, permitting and construction of the rerouting of Quaker Street. During that time, with all of the concerns brought forth with the neighbors on Quaker Street, I took a in depth look at the traffic on Quaker and Mt. Hunger/Butter Roads. I find it a little disturbing that the people complaining are directly targeting OHRV users. The traffic concerns on those three roads is not limited to OHRV use. The logging trucks, motorcycles, pickup trucks and automotive traffic is of concern also. For comparison an engine break noise logging truck and Motorcycles are the same or greater than an OHRV. The dust caused by Trucks, pickups and passenger vehicles are much greater than the OHRV. I know people will say that logging doesn't go on all summer. Many times it does. Also OHRV are limited to the hours of operation where Trucks, pickups, motorcycles and cars are not. The speeds I have noticed on Mt. Hunger and Butter Roads, especially when they are going downhill, are far in excess of the posted speed.

I am also concern regarding people who move into an area without doing their due diligence and then expecting the Town to correct their folly. I would hate to see the town set a precedence in this area. Moving from a urban area to a rural one comes with trade-offs. Many farmers have used OHRVS for over 40 years in their daily work and the children for fun. It is only recent years that the government had to become involved because of the non-residents using our trails. The bottom line is that we have to fair to all and respect all rights not those of a few, which goes both ways.

I believe the Contoocook Valley ATV Riders, being a member, are very proactive and are willing to try to work with this group of citizens to come to a compromise that works. We all have to live together in our community and a good compromise is the ability to listen to two sides in a dispute, and devise a compromise acceptable to both. Please allow the CVATVR to present some options to keep the roads open to ALL. It does disturb me that Horses, cows, bicycles, plated OHRV's, plated motorcycles, pickup trucks with stacks, logging truck and vehicles can use the town roads but we specifically discriminate against ATV and registered OHRV riders.

The Henniker Police were gifted an OHRV from CVATVR to be able to patrol the off road trails. I believe there are specific times of the day when speeding on Mt. Hunger/Butter Road is of the most concern and if that information could be given to CVATVR, Henniker Police and NH Fish and Game, the OHRV concern can be greatly reduced. It may even help speeding of other vehicles on the road.

FINAL

I hope to be present at the meeting tomorrow night via ZOOM and would appreciate a chance to discuss this concern after others have spoken.

Jennifer McCourt

42 Ezekiel Smith Road

Henniker, NH 03242