

DRAFT



**Town of Henniker
OHRV Meeting
Monday, November 5, 2018
The Grange**

Members Present: Chair Jim Morse, Beth Patenaude, Bob Garrison, Paul Sheppard, Chief Matt French, Kris Blomback, Ross Bennett, Stephanie Payeur,

Members Excused: Andrew Major, Leo Aucoin, and Scott Dias

Recording Secretary: Colleen Gagnon

Guests: Lynne Morse, Bob McCourt

The OHRV meeting was called to order by Chair Jim Morse at 5:00pm

1. Meeting Minutes Review and Approval

The OHRV committee reviewed the meeting minutes from 7.16.18.

Beth Patenaude made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from 7.16.18. Paul Sheppard seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0-3 (Payeur, Blomback, Bennett)

2. Public Comment

No public comment

3. Regulatory Safety and Police

Chair Jim Morse asked Chief Matt French to report.

Chief Matt French presented the totals for 2018. He stated that there were three summons, nineteen warnings and one crash. The committee questioned the crash. Chief Matt French stated the crash involved a single ATV on Quaker Street. The crash was caused due to a mechanical issue and there were no injuries.

Chief Matt French stated that, beginning in April of 2018, there have been twenty two OHRV complaints made. Of the complaints made, some were unfounded, some had no contact and some were on unauthorized trails.

The committee discussed whether or not they are responsible for the use of OHRVs on unauthorized roads/trails. Chair Jim Morse asked Kris Blomback for clarification on the original purpose of the OHRV committee. Kris Blomback stated that he would need to review meeting notes to determine the original charge of the committee. Mr. Blomback suggested that the report produced by the OHRV committee should address the issues at hand. The committee continued

DRAFT

to discuss the pros and cons of the committee addressing authorized use and unauthorized use of OHRVs.

Chair Jim Morse asked Kris Blomback if he had any concerns. Mr. Blomback stated that he had received one complaint regarding an incident on Shaker Road. Chair Jim Morse clarified that Shaker Road is not on the trail system.

Chair Jim Morse asked Stephanie Payeur if she had any concerns. Ms. Payeur asked if complaints could be shared with committee prior to a meeting. Ms Payeur asked Chirf Matt French if he could keep the complaints as a rolling spreadsheet and publish the spreadsheet in the minutes. Ms. Payeur asked Chief Matt French if anyone called into the Police Department directly versus calling the dispatch number. Chief Matt French stated that he can't tell, that all phone complaints are logged as a call. The log does not state which line the call came in on.

Chief Matt French was asked if this season was better than last. Chief Matt French stated it was better this season with the fixing of the Liberty Hill issues.

Bob Garrison stated that there have been frequent ATV articles in the newspaper that are unflattering.

Chair Jim Morse asked Ross Bennett if he had any concerns. Mr. Bennett clarified that the statistics Chief Matt French provided include November 4, 2018. Chief Matt French stated that they did. Mr. Bennett asked about the status of the class 5 trails on November 4th. Chair Jim Morse stated that the class 5 trails are closed at sunset on November 4th and they re-open at sunrise on May 23rd. It was discussed that the time frames are not clearly stated on signage.

Ross Bennett asked Chief Matt French how he is doing with the grant budget. Chief Matt French stated that it is going well. Mr. Bennett asked if the \$2700 would last for two years. Chief Matt French stated that the \$2700 would be enough for the two years if he is allowed to roll-over the money from year to year. If it is not able to roll-over, Chief Matt French said he would apply for the grant again.

Ross Bennett asked if there were any summary statistics from Fish and Game patrol. Chair Jim Morse responded that there were none.

Mr. Blomback asked if, while engaged in an enforcement, the club talk to the Police and Fish and Game. Police and Fish and Game are able to communicate. The club would call the dispatch line if police assistance was needed.

Chair Jim Morse asked Bob Garrison, Paul Sheppard and Chief Matt French if they had further comments. No further comments on safety.

Economic Development for Businesses

DRAFT

Paul Sheppard stated that he has heard very positive things from Harvester Market, Western Ave Pizza, the Mobile Station and the Farm Store. Ross Bennett asked about the Country Spirit. Beth Patenaude and Chair Jim Morse stated that trail access to the Country Spirit did not happen. It was stated that there is not enough land and it is hard to get there.

The committee discussed that local businesses are seeing some new business from new ATV users.

Parking, Road Conditions and Signs

Bob Garrison stated that new signs have gone up. Mr. Garrison stated he feels that people without a map have difficulty staying on the trail.

The committee discussed the signage on the trails. It was noted that at times signs are stolen and/or knocked down by mowers. It was discussed that the signage is clear when you are off the trail but at times it can be difficult to stay on the users' desired trail.

Chief Matt French stated he felt the signage on the Henniker trails is good.

Ross Bennett asked the committee if class 6 roads are open all winter long and if the class 5 roads are signed closed. The committee responded that class 6 roads are open and class 5 roads are closed. There are closed signs at every intersection.

The committee discussed that all the signs which said "ATV permitted" were taken down yesterday, 11.4.18.

Ross Bennett suggested the use of signs which stated "NO ATV" instead of only the ones where the trail rules were listed. The committee agreed that more signage could be added.

Beth Patenaude emailed the state asking to have them post that Henniker class 5 roads are closed November 4th – May 23rd.

Ross Bennett asked if the committee monitors online forums and other clubs. Beth Patenaude and Chair Jim Morse stated that yes they do. Mr. Bennett said he had seen a large trail system map of Henniker on the NH ATV Club site. The committee discussed that someone would look into that.

Ross Bennett discussed trail maintenance he would like to see addressed:

a) Trail damage on Chase Road between Butter Road and Quaker Street. Mr. Bennett stated that the ruts are three feet apart and are channeling a lot of water into the puddles. This road is sensitive to damage, water and ecological harm. Mr. Bennett asked if this trail can be closed. The committee discussed that the road is difficult to access and not often utilized. Chair Jim Morse stated that the club can ask members not to ride on that trail. Chair Morse stated he felt a sign would not do any good. Mr. Bennett stated he felt the trail should be closed.

b) Erosion on Temple Road from Chase Brook Trail. Vehicles are causing erosion when they turn right to go up to Pats Peak. Beth Patenaude and Chair Jim Morse will put a sign up next Spring to say "NO ATV". Chair Jim Morse will fill the trench on the side of the road.

DRAFT

c) Mink Hills Road Trail Connector through NHDOT property. This trail is very wet and has sustained a lot of damage. Mr. Bennett asked if a wetlands survey was completed before the trail was opened. Committee discussed that the area near Amey Brook is very wet. Chair Jim Morse stated that they are likely close OHRV membership from using this trail. Ross Bennett encouraged Chair Jim Morse to consider the wetlands impact when placing some stone in the area.

Public Comment

Bob McCourt said that the State of NH wants to change the language to 9:00 pm instead of sunset so that the rules are consistent from town to town.

Chair Jim Morse asked Bob McCourt about Trail Committee meeting. It was stated that there was no Trail Committee meeting.

Concord Regional Planning is coming out with maps. They said that they will not put Henniker trails on their map.

Chair Jim Morse asked the committee to set the next meeting date.

The committee discussed the pros and cons of having the next meeting before the trails open or after the trails open.

The committee discussed the need to change some wording on their signs.

The committee set the next meeting date for June 10, 2019 at 5:00 pm at the Grange.

Paul Sheppard made a motion to send new language to the selectboard that clarifies the opening and closing of class 5 roads on the trail system. Proposed new language would state that the trails open on May 23rd at sunrise and close on November 4th at sunset. New language to be added to the ordinance is as follows:

Ordinance 120-21 section I

No person shall operate an ATV on town streets from November 4th at sunset to May 23rd at sunrise every year.

Beth Patenaude seconded the motion. The motion passed 8-0

Paul Sheppard made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Beth Patenaude seconded the motion. The motion passed 8-0

Meeting adjourned at 6:18 pm