

## FINAL



**Town of Henniker  
OHRV Meeting  
Monday, June 10, 2019  
The Town Hall**

**Members Present:** Chair Jim Morse- ATV Club, Beth Patenaude- ATV Club, Scott Dias- Chamber of Commerce, Kris Blomback- Selectman, Ross Bennett- Conservation Commission, Sargent Mike Martin- Henniker Police Department (sitting in for Police Chief Matt French)

**Members Excused:** Paul Sheppard- Community Member, Stephanie Payeur- EDC, Bob Garrison- Community Member, Drew Major- Conservation Commission, Leo Aucoin- Road Agent, Police Chief Matt French

**Recording Secretary:** Colleen Gagnon

**Guests:** Patrolman Jess Colby- Henniker Police Department, Matt Henry – Town Administrator

**The OHRV meeting was called to order by Chair Jim Morse at 5:05pm**

Chair Morse stated this is not an official meeting due to the fact that there is not a quorum present.

**1. Meeting Minutes Review and Approval**

The meeting minutes from November 5, 2018 were reviewed and a few edits were discussed. Approval of the meeting minutes was tabled until the next meeting on Monday October 28, 2019.

**2. Public Comment:**

None

**3. Police Comment:**

Patrolman Jess Colby addressed the committee. Patrolman Colby stated that he has been out on patrol and has had conversations with people. The people he has spoken with are saying that they like that the police are there. Information is being disseminated to trail users. Patrolman Colby said that he is able to remind users of the OHRV rules. It was stated that trail users feel “it only takes one yahoo to ruin it for all” therefore they are glad to have a police presence to keep all following the rules.

**4. Safety Concerns:**

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Mr. Henry stated that a few individuals from Brown's Way complained mid-April. The individuals asked the town to address the road conditions. Mr. Henry suggested that they create a home owners organization to maintain their road. The committee discussed the maintenance that has already been completed on Brown's Way. Mr. Blomback stated that work was done to Brown's Way, it was graded and yolk raked. Mr. Dias suggested that the homeowners provide crushed gravel to help with drainage.

### **5. Residence Concerns:**

Mr. Bennett stated that with the delayed trail opening he feels things have been relatively quiet. Sargent Martin mentioned a complaint on Freeman Colby and one on Dodge Hill. Patrolman Colby elaborated on the Freeman Colby complaint. He stated that the Freeman Colby complaint was that a red ATV was going back and forth in front of a residence. A red ATV was seen further up the road at another residence. Police attempted to make contact with that homeowner but was unsuccessful at that time. Discussion was had with other neighbors and it was determined it was likely a youth riding the red ATV. Patrolman Colby spoke to the committee about a call he received from Hemlock Corner Loop. A resident called regarding a side by side machine that was seen on a road before the trail system was open. This turned out to be a concerned neighbor and there was no legal issue.

### **6. Signage:**

Mr. Blomback stated he would like to applaud the committee for the amount of signage and he encourages the committee to continue to expand the signage to other areas. Patrolman Colby stated that he likes seeing the big white signs with the rules at the intersection of roads. He feels those signs are helpful to remind users of the trail system rules.

### **7. Regulatory Police Fish and Game:**

Mr. Bennett stated that it would be great to have a report from Fish and Game prior to each meeting. Sargent Martin stated that they have \$5,400 dollars from Fish and Game for ATV details. Chair Morse stated he feels that the police presence has a huge impact at high crossing areas. That it is very helpful. Patrolman Colby stated that fortunately the details can be done from a police cruiser. The policeman does not have to be ATV certified to do the ATV detail.

### **8. Hours of Operation:**

Chair Morse stated that the hours of operation have been clarified.

### **9. Map Sales:**

Chair Morse discussed that maps continue to be an issue. Individuals are putting their own maps of the Henniker trail system on the internet. Chief Morse questioned if anyone has an idea how to stop individuals from GPS mapping the trails and putting them up on the internet. The committee discussed the issue. Henniker trail system maps are currently sold at Morse Sporting Goods. The trail system maps are used as a teaching device. Patrolman Colby

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discussed that he has a Henniker trail systems map and uses it with trail users when they question where a trail goes. He said he does get asked where a map can be purchased. In the future he will direct individuals to Morse Sporting Goods for trail system map purchases.

### **10. Economic development:**

Mr. Bennett reviewed the \$5,400 Enforcement Grant and asked to hear more about the Maintenance Grant. Chair Morse stated that they did receive the grant. The grant is for \$13,475.80. Chair Morse reviewed the details regarding the spending of the grant money. An 11 foot York Rake was purchased. It was discussed that the Road Agent will have access to the York Rake when the committee is not using it. Funds to purchase 2 ½ tons of calcium were also included in the grant as well as money to fix the Chase Brook Trail. It was stated that the grant is a 60/40 split.

The grant money was recapped:

Total grant- \$13, 475.80

Funds for Equipment- \$4,333.80

Funds for Materials and Construction- \$9,142.00

It was stated that the committee receives grant aid through the registration fees. It was discussed that on the Chase Brook Trail the committee is looking to improve the drainage on the trails. Mr. Henry asked about promoting the surrounding trails that lead to Henniker. Chair Morse stated that the committee has not looked into driving the traffic toward Henniker. The committee is currently looking to take care of the traffic that is already in Henniker. Chair Morse suggested that a way for the town make money would be to have a lot on a the trail system for parking.

Mr. Bennett reminded the committee to continue to consider the economic costs along with the economic benefits. Grant money that is currently available may not be available in the future.

Mr. Blomback asked if anyone charges for access to the trails. Ms. Patenaude says “no”. Mr. Blomback asked about requesting a donation to help maintain the trail system. Chair Morse agreed the committee could request donations. Mr. Blomback suggested putting a donation box up along with the signage in the future.

It was discussed that right now all the businesses that the committee can get trails to have trails there. Mr. Blomback asked about the Country Spirit, he asked if the owners are working on an alternative route. Chair Morse said he was not sure. It was discussed that a trail to the Country Spirit would take work and money.

### **11. Road Conditions:**

The committee discussed that the new Road Superintendent is doing a good job. The roads are currently in good shape. Mr. Bennett stated he felt it was a great decision to delay the trail system opening due to the wet weather. He questioned if there is wet weather in the future would it be possible to do a temporary road closure. Chair Morse stated that a temporary road closure could happen if need be. Mr. Bennett said he would like to revisit the Mink Hill Trail connector. Chair Morse said they met with the Trails Bureau two months ago and a bridge shift

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was discussed. The Trails Bureau was supposed to supply money in the grant for that. Chair Morse will follow up with the Trails Bureau.

Mr. Bennett asked if there were any other maintenance issues. Chair Morse said he fixed a trail up off his camp road. Chair Morse stated that he has been focusing more on the roads than the trails to make sure they are properly signed.

### **12. Parking:**

Chair Morse would like to have a spot in town for some parking. It could be possible that individuals could purchase a seasonal parking pass. Mr. Henry said he would look into a location for parking. Mr. Bennett cautioned that the committee would want coordinate with the neighborhood when looking into a parking lot.

### **13. Conservation:**

Mr. Bennett said there are no current concerns from the Conservation Commission. The Chase Brook Trail was discussed. Chair Morse asked if Mr. Bennett would ask the Conservation Commission if they want any materials, stone, in the lower area. Mr. Bennett said he would raise the issue at the next Conservation Commission meeting.

### **14. Road and Trail Erosion:**

Chair Morse stated the committee will deal with road and trail erosion as it comes along. Mr. Aucoin, Road Agent has been making sure all the culverts are open. Mr. Bennett asked about the drainage gully on Temple Road. Chair Morse said he has not gotten over to that spot. Mr. Bennett said it has been raked out. Chair Morse said he will ask the Road Agent to go over the gully on Temple Road with the grader.

### **15. Dust:**

Chair Morse stated that the committee has calcium available for when it is needed. The committee will contact the Road Agent to coordinate the application of the calcium.

### **16. Noise:**

Chair Morse said there are no noise issues yet. Mr. Henry asked if dirt bikes are considered OHRVs. The committee said that yes they are. One complaint was discussed. The complaint was looked into and the noise ordinance was reviewed.

Chair Morse asked if there was any other business. Mr. Bennett asked when the next meeting would be. Changing the time of the meeting was discussed. Chair Morse said he is open to discussion of the meeting time. Chair Morse said he would send a survey on the meeting time out to the committee.

**Next meeting date will be Monday October 28, 2019 - time to be determined.**

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**The meeting adjourned at 5:52pm.**