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**Town of Henniker
OHRV Committee
Monday, October 21, 2019
Henniker Town Hall**

Members Present: Chair Jim Morse, ATV Club; Scott Dias, Chamber of Commerce; Beth Patenaude, ATV Club; Leo Aucoin, Road Agent; Kris Blomback, Selectmen; Matthew French, Police Chief; Bob Garrison, Community Member

Members Excused: Drew Major, Conservation Commission; Ross Bennett, Conservation Commission; Stephanie Payeur, Economic Development Committee; Paul Sheppard, Community Member

Recording Secretary: Kelly McCutcheon

Guests: Bill Dragon, ATV Club

Public comment:

No public comment.

Approve minutes from last minutes:

- **November 5, 2018 minutes:** Leo Aucoin moved to approve the minutes as amended. Bob Garrison seconded. Motion carried 6-0-1 (Dias).
- **June 10, 2019 minutes:** Scott Dias moved to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried 6-0-1 (Aucoin).

Safety: Regulatory Police, Police Concerns, Resident's and OHRV Committee Concerns:

The data collected from 2014-2016 is not completely accurate as it was not routinely tracked at that time. From 2017 onward the data is more accurate. The arrest in 2019 involved a DUI (driving under the influence) on an unauthorized trail. The main change is the decrease in stops and complaints at this point in the year.

| OHRV stats Henniker PD | | | | | | |
|------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Year | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
| Arrest | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Summons | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Warnings | 0 | 0 | 2 | 9 | 19 | 12 |
| Stops | 0 | 0 | 4 | 33 | 25 | 41 |
| Complaints | 0 | 5 | 5 | 14 | 22 | 14 |
| Crash | - | - | 0 | 2 | 1 | 2 |

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Chief French stated that Fish and Game Stops were not included in the count. Beth asked if the stops were random or if there was reason. Chief French stated that they ran safety checks at some of the more popular intersections to ensure properly registered and licensed in addition to speeding tickets. Jim Morse pointed out the seasons starts before registration is due. Scott Dias asked if the complaints are individual complaints or a few individuals calling more. Chief French did not have the information readily available but will make a mental note to start tracking for data.

Jim Morse stated his concern regarding detours and ATVs. Leo Aucoin stated if the road is being detoured that he does not have an issue with ATVs utilizing the paved roads if detoured due to construction. Chief French pointed out road detours are typically Monday-Friday and do not impact the weekends when there is more ATV use.

Roads: Road Conditions & Signs

Leo stated some roads like Davison need to be marked to keep OHRV on the pavement since when they ride the shoulder of the road it displaces the road shoulder. Gravel and first roads aren't as much as a concern, but OHRVs should not travel on the road shoulder.

Road conditions: Dodge Road to Hemlock Corner Loop is not in the best condition and Leo put down some calcium on the road.

Signs: Jim stated there were a few signs tipped over but have been fixed. Scott Dias stated the ATV club did a great job identifying useable and nonuse able trails.

Class 5 Road/trail closer November 3, 2019 at sunset

Class 5 Road/Trail Opener May 23, 2020 unless the committee deems the trails are not ready to be opened in which case notifications and signage will be posted with the new open date.

Public comment:

No public Comment

Committee Updates & Concerns:

Scott Dias asked Bill Dragon of the sister ATV club if their club also reviewed police statistics. Bill stated his club handles complaints directly and does not have the relation this committee has with their police department. Bill Dragon stated that typically people do not call to register their complaints until a town meeting, and encourages people to call so his ATV club so they can document and remedy the situation.

Chair Jim Morse stated the Chase Brook Trail is presently closed while the bridge is out and the difficulty finding a contractor this time of year.

Beth stated she was present August 25, 2019 at a NH House of Rep's Study Committee Meeting site visit which took place at 7 School House Lane in Warner and was pertinent to House Bill 683 (relative to the rights of property owners abutting certain highways and rail trails). Ross Bennett was also one of those in attendance. Mr. Bennett introduced himself to the HB681 Study Committee as a member of the Henniker OHRV Committee, Henniker Conservation Committee, and Henniker Trails Committee. After which, he proceeded to read prepared testimony to the Study Committee that reflected negatively toward OHRVs in general. He also

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shared photos of area trail conditions that we as a committee were working to address d have repaired by our local ATV Club via GIA.

Beth stated being a member of the OHRV Committee, she was surprised that Ross was testifying for the Henniker Town Committees without prior approval or knowledge by said Committees or the Henniker Selectmen. In doing so, she feels that he was using his Town's status to influence the Study Committee and this needs to be addressed. Beth asked if any of the OHRV Committee members were provided notice of his testimony, and if not, then what the Committee recommends as a course of action.

None of the members present had received any notice. Scott Dias stated when he speaks on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce there is a vote by the Chamber to determine who will speak on behalf of them. He stated if Ross was speaking as a resident there is no problem, but if Ross identified himself as a Town Representative, regardless of his stance, he should have received the Committee's and Board of Selectman's approval. Chief French stated that Ross could have been showing his experience speaking as a citizen. Beth stated the way Ross was speaking made it seem implied he was a Town Representative.

It is unknow if the meeting was lived streamed or if there were minutes taken which would determine exactly what was said. It is asked if Chair Jim Morse should send a letter to all the committee members or if the Board of Selectmen should send a letter or email to all committees. Kris Blomback stated that if Ross was speaking as a member of the public that he has the right, but if he presented himself as a Town Representative that was crossing the line. However, it is not known what was said verbatim. Jim asked if he had the right as Chair of the OHRV Committee to send a letter or email stating the committee needs to vote before any member speaks on the behalf of the committee publicly. Kris Blomback confirmed Chair Jim Morse has the right.

Beth stated the NH Fish and Game report shows that OHRV accidents have been declining over 50% from year to year for the last few years. The report shows most the accidents involved those who did not attend a safety class and consisted mostly of males ages 16-30.

Next meeting:

June 15, 2020 at 6pm Henniker Town Hall

Adjourn:

Chair Morse moved to adjourn. Leo seconded. Motion carried 7-0.

Adjourn 5:45pm