



Williams Hill Class 4 trail access

Peter Moore <pmoorefish@gmail.com>
To: Josh Arneson <jarneson@richmondvt.gov>

Tue, Sep 21, 2021 at 5:54 PM

I am re-sending all my previous correspondence on the Williams Hill Rd Class 4 determination, in order to be included in the sworn record, as per your guidance of Friday Sep 17 email.
I will also participate on the Sep 21 Zoom call and will reference my previous emails to you and the Selectboard on the topic.

Thank you,
Peter Moore
1272 Williams Hill Rd
Richmond, VT

Peter Moore
Fisheries Development International
pmoorefish@gmail.com
(207) 233-4353 cell

----- Forwarded message -----
From: **Peter Moore** <pmoorefish@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, May 10, 2021 at 4:50 PM
Subject: Re: Williams Hill Class 4 trail access
To: Josh Arneson <jarneson@richmondvt.gov>

Sounds good, thanks!

On Mon, May 10, 2021 at 4:48 PM Josh Arneson <jarneson@richmondvt.gov> wrote:
I am going to discuss it with the Chair on Wednesday to see if she wants to put this on the agenda for Monday, May 17.

Josh Arneson

Town Manager
Town of Richmond
P.O. Box 285
Richmond, VT 05477
(802) 434-5170

On Mon, May 10, 2021 at 4:44 PM Peter Moore <pmoorefish@gmail.com> wrote:
Thank you for the clarification.
And I agree it need to be marked by the Town (or by the trails committee on behalf of the Town residents.

What is the schedule for the select board to consider all this?

Best,
Peter

On Mon, May 10, 2021 at 4:42 PM Josh Arneson <jarneson@richmondvt.gov> wrote:
Peter,

I do not know of any legal reason why there cannot be public access to a Class 4 road. But, it does need to be clearly defined and understood where the road is.

Josh Arneson

Town Manager
Town of Richmond
P.O. Box 285
Richmond, VT 05477
(802) 434-5170

On Mon, May 10, 2021 at 2:58 PM Peter Moore <pmoorefish@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Josh,

Thanks for your reply.

In order for me to engage constructively, I would appreciate receiving a summary of the call. Whatever you share with the select board would be appropriate.

As for my question of accessing the Class 4 road section, what I want to know is WHETHER THERE IS ANY LEGAL REASON FOR THE PUBLIC TO BE EXCLUDED FROM ACCESSING THE TOWN OWNED CLASS 4 ROAD?

Could you provide an answer to this question, above?

A separate question, which you alluded to, is identifying the boundaries. I believe Chase Rosenberg of the Trails Committee made a presentation to the ZOOM call gathering, is that correct? His presentation has a map with the right of way identified, and that would be most helpful to have the town flag that so the public knows where the boundaries of public right of way are.

Thanks,
Peter

On Mon, May 10, 2021 at 2:15 PM Josh Arneson <jarneson@richmondvt.gov> wrote:

Peter,

I did not record the meeting but I think we had a lot of good input from all sides that will help to inform the Selectboard on this topic. One of the big issues that I see right now, which seems to get to both of your questions, is where exactly is the current ROW? It seems to me that this is not clearly defined on the ground.

Josh Arneson

Town Manager
Town of Richmond
P.O. Box 285
Richmond, VT 05477
(802) 434-5170

On Mon, May 10, 2021 at 1:50 PM Peter Moore <pmoorefish@gmail.com> wrote:

Hello Josh,

I am following up on your efforts on the Williams Hill Rd trail question, as discussed with you last week.

Could you share a summary of the Thursday ZOOM call when available?

Also, I did pose the following question in my email of last week and trust you can provide me an answer, which I would very much appreciate:

A relevant question I would like answered before offering further comments or suggestions:

- 1) are residents currently restricted by law, Town policy or other legal mandate from accessing the Town-owned Class 4 portion of Williams Hill Rd?*
- 2) if so, what is the basis for these restrictions? Could you please provide the public the specific references.*

I look forward to hearing back from you, many thanks.

Peter Moore
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Richmond, VT 05477
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On Wed, May 5, 2021 at 7:26 PM Peter Moore <pmoorefish@gmail.com> wrote:

Hello Josh,

My name is Peter Moore, I am a Richmond resident living at [1272 Williams Hill Rd](https://www.google.com/maps/place/1272+Williams+Hill+Rd,+Richmond,+VT+05477), which is the third house from the end of the traveled road and in sight of the beginning of the Class 4 road in question.

I appreciate your invitation to participate in a fact-finding zoom call tomorrow for residents of this end of Williams Hill Rd. The stated purpose as you describe it is as follows:

"My goal with this meeting is to gather information. I want to be able to provide Selectboard members with a clear briefing on this topic so they are well informed of the topic before it is discussed at a Selectboard meeting. In the meeting I want to hear from the Trails Committee regarding their request. Then I would like to hear opinions from the residents in this area about that request. If the residents have some top priorities and concerns that they agree on, it would be helpful if they could organize that feedback prior to the meeting and nominate someone to speak to those concerns. This way all the concerns can be voiced but in an organized fashion. After we have heard the request from

the Trails Committee and the priority feedback from the residents, I will open it up to general comments so that people can provide feedback that has not yet been covered."

Respectfully, this Zoom call is not a transparent public process, as it lacks adequate public notice to all residents, and has been set up in response to a certain perspective which is not shared universally in our neighborhood. I only learned of this Zoom call through a neighbor on Sunday. I know that this information has not been shared widely with others who would be supportive of the Trails Committee proposal.

Perhaps the Zoom call can be a beginning, but certainly not the sum total of the opinions and priorities you are seeking to relay to the Selectboard.

The call notes that you summarize for the Selectboard must be qualified to reflect who was noticed and that they may not speak for all of the potentially interested parties on our road, much less the wider neighborhood citizenry and Richmond community.

I would respectfully request that a more complete public process be initiated in much the same manner that the VT Statutes define in Title 19 Section 305 for decisions by Selectboards on Town roads.

A relevant question I would like answered before offering further comments or suggestions:

- 1) are residents currently restricted by law, Town policy or other legal mandate from accessing the Town-owned Class 4 portion of Williams Hill Rd?
- 2) if so, what is the basis for these restrictions? Could you please provide the public the specific references.

I am not able to make the conference call tomorrow as my mother is being admitted to hospice tomorrow in Portsmouth, NH, and I will be assisting her. I trust you can appreciate what that means and why I will be fully present for her. I am also aware there are other residents who may have not been invited to the call, who share my thoughts about how to proceed (offered below). I would appreciate you transcribing the call so that there is a public record for review by those of us who are unaware or unable to attend.

I am aware that there is a proposal from the Richmond Trails Committee: to define a non-motorized path that provides access to the public Class 4 section of Williams Hill Rd, in order to allow for passage through to Palmer Lane, and connections to Hinesburg and Huntington roads and associated trail networks like Sleepy Hollow and HART non-motorized trail systems.

Initial thoughts

1) my thoughts are grounded in the Richmond Town Plan (2018) and the mission of the Trails Committee as adopted by the Selectboard in 2018

From the Richmond Town Plan (2018),

"The mission of the Trails Committee is to establish paths for non-motorized transportation and recreation in Richmond, to maintain these paths, to link with other towns when feasible, and to promote safe citizen use of these paths."

2) I am supportive of the Trails Committee proposal to define a non-motorized footpath on the public way. NOTE: perhaps the Selectboard can employ the model they utilized to allow for a footpath connecting Snipe Ireland Rd in Richmond to Snipe Island Rd in Jericho (Non-motorized and no trail head parking).

3) I am not in favor of restoring the Class 4 road to permit motorized vehicle access of any kind

4) I am not in favor of providing parking at the end of Williams Hill Rd in part out of deference to neighbors and fundamentally because this area serves as a turnaround for municipal, emergency and service vehicles during all times of year, 24/7

5) I am not in favor of providing parking anywhere along Williams Hill Rd

6) I am in favor of posting Williams Hill Rd with signage as follows: No Parking on Traveled Roadway

I offer these suggestions as a way to help seek common ground in the neighborhood and allow access to the passageway in a safe and respectful manner.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Peter Moore

[1272 Williams Hill Rd](#)

[Richmond, VT 05477](#)

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