



Peter Moore 1272 Williams Hill Rd resident - Williams Hill Rd testimony Sep 21, 2021

1 message

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

Tue, Sep 21, 2021 at 7:34 PM

Josh,

Please include these comments in the record of the Public Hearing on Williams Hill Rd.
Thank you.

I support retaining the Class 4 road and converting it to a legal trail.

I am not alone in my support though many are fearful of speaking up in support due to acrimony from some petitioners towards other neighbors who support non-motorized access. This has surfaced in our neighborhood, sadly. I am not fearful, as it is our right to speak up for what we want as taxpayers and citizens of Richmond.

In summary:

1. All three Town Committees (Planning, Transportation and Trails) officially recommend retaining the Town's ownership - this summer the Selectboard requested and received input on this question of discontinuing Town ownership from these three Town committees, all of whom have voted to (or supported) RETAINING the Class 4 Road for the Town of Richmond, in keeping with the Town Plan developed by the townspeople of Richmond and adopted by the Selectboard in 2018.

The Committee messages are clear, with some added points, such as from the Planning Commission, "that creating and maintaining a trail over this Class 4 road is consistent with the Richmond Town Plan and its goals." Note that the Planning Commission considered recommending that the Selectboard convert the road to legal trail status, but in a 4-5 vote decided the authority to implement a "legal trail" lies with the Selectboard. A legal trail would preclude use of motorized vehicles.

2. Common ground - Prohibit motorized vehicles and parking - We are not aware of any messages from the Town Committees or the public that motorized vehicle use or parking is desirable here. In fact, public comment to date has emphasized that motorized vehicle access and parking are NOT being sought nor are they desirable. This is a point on which the neighbors and community share common ground. We are not aware of any demonstrated public need - nor any benefit - to allow motorized vehicles access on this way, at this time or in the foreseeable future. (A Planning Commission member did note that on occasion permission could be requested from the Town for essential trail maintenance purposes only).

3. I support retaining this Class 4 Road and converting it to a Legal Trail. As defined in State statutes a Legal Trail designation prohibits motorized vehicle access unless specifically authorized by the Town. The result could be a narrow, quiet trail - to be used simply for walking, bicycling, snowshoeing and skiing consistent with the public benefits that the Committees and public have noted in comments to date and the Town Plan envisions, as adopted by the Selectboard. This public way is no longer a road, but as a trail would have high value for the many families on both ends, residents seeking passage through to other quiet roads and trails, and other occasional visitors who would enjoy its quiet use.

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