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~~ABOUT THE DISCONTINUANCE OF~~
~~WILLIAMS HILL ROAD~~

Reasons to Discontinue Williams Hill Road

From : Joan Hathaway <nancy_drew@gmavt.net>

Fri, Jun 18, 2021 04:10 PM

Subject : Reasons to Discontinue Williams Hill Road

To : christine werneke <christine.werneke@richmondvt.org>

Cc : bombi1360 <bombi1360@gmail.com>

Dear Christine,

Here are our reasons why we think the top of Williams Hill Rd should be discontinued if it is found to be a Class 4 Road.

The extension to Hinesburg has not been used since 1942 based on Emily Gyllensward's recollection when a truck full of apples from the Brown's farm came over the hill. It was more of a farm path at the time. Right now there are trees and brush all grown up and no road exists anymore. It still exists on some maps and this is problematic because people unfamiliar with the area drive up and get frustrated and have to turn around, sometimes angry when the neighbors say their GPS or map shows a through way. Two weeks ago a tractor trailer truck went up the road and had difficulty turning around.

There has been some discussion about opening up the road to a bike/pedestrian path, but this can lead to other problems. Here are some other reasons for discontinuance of the road.

1. There is no place to park at either end of the top of Williams Hill Rd. Many neighbors are concerned with more traffic on the road with people trying to find the path if listed on a trails map.
2. The extension is only 0.7 mile after a steep hill of 1.3 miles and so it would have limited use to an average biker.
3. The area is in a Wildlife Corridor where we have bear, moose, turkeys, foxes, cotoyes, spotted salamanders, etc and do not wish to disturb this corridor.
4. If a path was made there, it would be impossible to police the use of snowmobiles, ATVs, motorcycles on the path, even if there was a sign. Even Out of staters could not be prohibited from using the path if it is listed as a Class 4 Road and shown on maps.
5. There is a bike/walking path off Wortheims Rd (which is off Williams Hill Rd) and neighbors there have complained about parking, partying at the trail end after a ride, and public urination. The Trails committee has apologized, but it is not possible to police this behavior.
6. Bikers and walkers already have numerous places to hike/bike such as Cochran's, Sherman Hollow, Catamount, Volunteers Park and town forests in the area without disrupting two long-standing quiet dead end neighborhoods on the 2 sides of Williams Hill Rd where the residents are overwhelmingly against a trail there (two thirds of the residents have signed the petition). .

Regards,
Bruce and Joan Hathaway
787 Williams Hill Rd.
