

1 Special Meeting
2 Selectboard Minutes
3 9/21/2021
4
5

6 Members Present by Zoom: Bard Hill

7 Members In-Person: Christine Werneke, David Sander, June Heston, Jay Furr

8 Absent:

9 Others Present In- Person: Josh Arneson, Town Manager; Linda Parent, Town Clerk;
10 Lauck Parke, Joan Hathaway, Bruce Hathaway, Erik Filkorn (Transportation
11 Committee), Karen Yaggy, John P. Linn, Doreen Marquis, Robert Marquis, Paul
12 Hannan, Edward Wells, Lars Whitman, Willie Lee (Trails Committee), Tyler Merritt,
13 Chase Rosenburg, the meeting was recorded by MMCTV;

14 Others Present by Zoom: Kathy Daub-Stearns, Admin.; Julia Parke, Chris Haggerty
15 (surveyor), Alexandra McAleer, Fred Erdman, Stephanie Rogers, John Linn, Tyler
16 Hobbs, Ian Stokes, Allen Knowles, Cathleen Gent (Transportation Committee), Virginia
17 Clarke (Planning Commission), Mark Aiken, R. Low, Peter Moore, Samuel Waters,
18 David Thomas, Jason Webster, Beth, SRL's phone, Fran Thomas, Jim Monahan, Matt
19 Tabasko, Callie Ewald, Rod West, Penny Rand

20
21 **Welcome by Christine**

22 **Called to Order:** 6:05 PM
23

24 **Welcome by Christine.** The hearing was called to order at 6:06 PM
25

26 The hearing began with Christine reading the Hearing Notice which is available on the
27 Town website under documents for this hearing. She then provided information on how
28 the hearing would be conducted so that everyone would have an opportunity to be
29 heard adding that anyone speaking would be sworn in. Christine then explained that
30 the hearing was not a debate as to whether the road existed, rather it was to determine
31 whether to retain, discontinue or turn the road into a legal trail.
32

33 The Selectboard, she said, would be guided in their decision by VSA19vsa sec 710
34 which states: "After examining the premises, and hearing any interested parties, and if
35 the Selectmen and Selectwomen judge, that the public good, necessity and
36 convenience of the inhabitants of the municipality require, that the highway to be laid
37 out, altered or reclassified, as claimed in the petition it shall cause the highway to be
38 surveyed in accordance with the provisions of section 33 of this title if the highway right
39 of way cannot be determined and shall place suitable monuments to properly mark the
40 bounds of the survey, if they decide to discontinue a highway, the discontinuance shall
41 be in writing setting forth a complete description of the highway."
42

43 Christine went on to describe the deliberative process saying once the Hearing was
44 closed the Selectboard had 60 days to issue a decision and the Selectboard could meet
45 in a deliberative session or sessions, they could work on this outside of open meeting

46 requirements, by meetings or email. After the decision was issued there would be a
47 thirty (30) day window to appeal the decision to the Vermont Superior Court.
48

49 Christine then recited the oath that would be administered to anyone who wished to
50 provide information at the Hearing and provided information on how the meeting would
51 continue saying the receiving of information would begin with a review from Josh
52 Arneson, Town Manager, of the documents received prior to the Hearing and were
53 accepted as exhibits. The Exhibits would not be read in their entirety but referenced
54 and were available for review on the Town website under documents for this Hearing.
55 Documents would be accepted through the end of the hearing either in person or by
56 email to Josh Arneson. The next person to be heard would be Chris Haggarty who was
57 the surveyor hired by the Town to do the research related to this Hearing. The first
58 group to be heard from would be abutting landowners, followed by people who are
59 stakeholders such as members of committees and Town staff, then the forum would be
60 open for anyone who wanted to be heard.
61

62 **Josh Arneson, Town Manager, was sworn in and reported:**

- 63 - that the documents being reviewed were available on the Town website for easy
64 access
- 65 - that the Exhibit List was reviewed
- 66 - that it was noted that the Exhibit List was time stamped at 5:00 and any
67 documents that came in, up to the end of the meeting, would be added
- 68 - that if anyone saw something that was missing, they could notify him to have the
69 record corrected

70
71 There were no questions for Josh Arneson.
72

73 **Chris Haggerty, the surveyor, was sworn in and reported:**

- 74 - that there was a summary of his work in the Exhibit List
- 75 - that there were documents found in several Towns including Williston,
76 Hinesburg, and Richmond
- 77 - that the process that was used in the researching the location of the road was
78 described
- 79 - that no survey bill was found that was definitively for Williams Hill Rd
- 80 - that the way the plan was prepared for the site walk was described saying there
81 is a road or path that can be seen on maps from the 1830's that carries forward through
82 the years and ties in with aerial photos from the 1960's. He said the road somewhat
83 conforms to the Town of Richmond highway maps, with a little difference at around the
84 O'Neal driveway. He said most people agree that the actual roadbed is north of, and
85 parallel to, the O'Neal driveway for most of its length.
86

87 There were no questions for Mr. Haggerty.
88

89 The first group of individuals, abutting landowners, and petitioners, were invited to
90 speak.
91

92 **Erik Filkorn, 1379 Williams Hill Rd., was sworn in and stated:**
93 - that he had served as a Selectboard member in the past and did not envy the job
94 this Selectboard was being asked to do
95 - that he had served the Town and signed the certificates that record mileage that
96 included the road in the past
97 - that he was on the board when ancient roads were thrown up and Class 4 roads
98 were not considered
99 - that he was in favor of throwing up the road and was not in favor of keeping the
100 road, he hoped that the Selectboard would consider how neighboring residents felt
101

102 **Joan Hathaway, 787 Williams Hill Rd., was sworn in and stated:**

103 - that she spoke about the history of the dead-end road
104 - that the road was used by the neighborhood for walking and recreation
105 - that she felt the surveyor may not have found evidence because the road might
106 not be owned by the Town and was a connector between two farms
107 - that the road did not have a name until the 1950's or 1960's
108 - that not having motorized vehicles would be impossible to enforce if it became a
109 trail and was concerned having a trail would open the neighborhood up to more noise
110 and vandalism
111 - that it was a wildlife corridor with herons, beaver, moose, bear, big cats, and
112 spotted salamanders making it their home
113 - that she did not think having another trail for hiking should take precedence over
114 keeping the forest and referenced Dr. Suess's book "the Lorax" saying children learn
115 what they live and opening the forest up would not be out of necessity but for pleasure.
116

117 **Jack Linn, 572 Williams Hill Rd., was sworn in and stated:**

118 - that he provided a history of the property
119 - that he felt connecting the roads would destroy the neighborhood feel of William's
120 Hill
121 - that the road was not conducive to connectivity due to the terrain and thought
122 there were other streets in Town that could be connected to relieve traffic congestion
123 - that the Town Plan uses the phrase "maintain our rural character and working
124 land" many times
125 - that he presented a map to the Selectboard which he described and stated the
126 area was a wildlife corridor. He questioned whether there ever was a road that
127 connected the two roads because of the width of parts of it
128 - that he thought the area the surveyor flagged was an old farm path
129

130 Christine asked Jack Linn for the map he referenced to make it part of the record, Jack
131 agreed.
132

133 **John Linn, 740 Williams Hill Rd., was sworn in and stated:**

134 - that the section of the road on Williams Hill Rd. being discussed should be
135 thrown up he said it would create an unsafe situation, change the character of the
136 neighborhood and was unwanted by the majority of neighbors

- 137 - that the best way to address the concerns of neighbors would be to discontinue
138 that section of road
139 - that no parking was available, nor was there room for a Town required turn-
140 around area due to the width of the road making it a safety issue
141 - that he cited instances on other trails where people using a trail parked on private
142 property without permission
143 - that he felt that if the Town could not create a public resource while abiding by its
144 own rules then it should not be created
145

146 **Doreen Marquis, 595 Huntington Rd., was sworn in and stated:**

- 147 - that she supports the trails, and the healthy lifestyle outdoor sports bring but did
148 not want her enjoyment to come at the expense of others enjoyment of their property,
149 she was in attendance to support her friends and neighbors
150 - that there are many, Class 4, roads that will become part of the narrative in the
151 future and suggested that the Town have a best practice document that would be used
152 as a guide for making decisions instead of deciding on a road-by-road basis saying it
153 would avoid unintended consequences and should address mitigation strategies for any
154 unintended consequences that did occur
155 - that she recounted an exchange between herself and someone who parked on
156 her lawn to use a trail across the street and thought the Town would have been culpable
157 for the repairs to her property had there been any because the trail was allowed without
158 parking or signage. She felt the Town should provide signage for where parking was
159 available at each trail head and the issues not left to landowners to handle
160 - that she felt it did not seem community balanced to build a small trail at the end
161 of a dead-end road
162 - that she read from an article in *Yankee Magazine* about the Kingdom Trail
163 Association and suggested the Town of Richmond could learn a few things from it to
164 avoid mistakes they made
165

166 **Lauck Parke, was sworn in and stated:**

- 167 - that the road should be discontinued and provided the Board a printed copy of
168 the statement he was making
169 - that the surveyor said there was no survey bill and according to the Vermont
170 Supreme Court ruling in *Austin vs Middlesex 2009*, and lacking a proper survey bill
171 means there is no Class 4 ancient road to discontinue or to have turned into a trail. He
172 acknowledged the Board's position but lodged a formal objection to the decision there
173 was a road adding that avoiding the survey bill issue would be at the Selectboard's peril
174 - that the discontinuance of a segment of Williams Hill Rd. was compliant with the
175 Town Plan and would forestall rural development along the Town highway corridor, it
176 would also serve to protect the wildlife corridor, wetlands, and rural tranquility of a
177 century old neighborhood. Lauck felt having a trail went against the Town Plan's ideals
178 and the Trails Committee's use of citing the Town Plan for connectivity was misguided.
179 He felt the reasons he cited for discontinuance outweighed the reasons to have a trail.
180 - that in his opinion few residents would benefit from the trail, saying it was not a
181 viable commuting route due to the terrain, and did not seem to be vital for the public

182 good and would only serve the recreational enjoyment of a few Richmond residents at
183 the detriment to wildlife and residents nearby
184 - that mountain bikers have been banned from the Andrews Community Forest for
185 environmental reasons
186 - that the Town has not maintained or used this area since the 1940's and a trail
187 would be destructive to the wetlands, wildlife and the rural character of two
188 neighborhoods if a trail were allowed
189 - that smartphone apps let people know about new trails and would bring
190 increased traffic, mountain bike activity, and intolerable behaviors. He said that by
191 sanctioning a trail the Selectboard would exclusively inherit the responsibility to police
192 and manage users behaviors
193 - that the Town has no ordinance about the management of all of its Class 4
194 ancient roads despite recommendations from the State and Vermont League of Cities
195 and Towns and with the exception of a 2009 Ordinance prohibiting motorized vehicles
196 on Snipe Ireland Trail and that the Ordinance makes no reference to the care of the trail
197 itself by hikers or mountain bikers
198 - that Lauck felt in the absence of clearly enforceable ordinances on parking
199 problems, emergency vehicle access, noise, litter, public urination, and the proper land
200 use, creating the trail would create a burden for the Selectboard, Towns officials and
201 employees
202 - that parking is a concern already and the Selectboard was considering adding
203 another headache by considering the creation of two new trailheads
204 - that he had three (3) arguments for the discontinuance of the road saying -This
205 represented a classic confrontation between the rights and expectations of one group of
206 citizens and the public good. On one hand are the explicit, well defined, rights and
207 interests of the land and homeowners verses the less well defined, expectations and
208 rights of a smaller group of individuals. He said the Town Plan, specifies the Town must
209 limit improvement in wildlife corridors and wetlands in large uninterrupted parcels and
210 the development of trails the implications should be weighed. If, there is to be a trail
211 then that he thought there needed to be ordinances adopted to cover the intolerable
212 behaviors spoken of earlier
213 - that there are other Class 4 roads that were at risk and the Trails Committee
214 should not be able to knock off these roads one at a time in their favor without the
215 proper engagement of the voters and how they want to control all potential public trails.
216 He thought having an ordinance would create an orderly way of approaching things.

217

Jack Linn (previously sworn in)

218 - that as a point of order, this hearing is just about discontinuing Highway 20 and
219 was not about putting in a trail. Christine responded, that the hearing was about
220 discontinuing the Class 4 road, that was the Petition that brought about the Hearing and
221 by statute the Selectboard had the ability to make one (1) of three (3) determinations, it
222 could stay the same, that it could be reclassified as a legal trail, Jack interrupted saying
223 that was not warned, that the meeting was about throwing up the road, Christine went
224 on to explain that by statute, the Selectboard had three options of what to do with the
225 road by statute adding that it was part of the Hearing Notice. Jack apologized. Bard
226 offered him a copy of the notice which Jack took. Christine finished answering the
227

228 question saying the last option would be to discontinue the road and the right-of-way
229 would be turned over to the abutting landowners.

230

231 **Stephanie Rogers, 746 Williams Hill Rd., was sworn in and stated:**

232 - that she and her family have resided on Williams Hill Rd for nearly 50 years, it
233 was where her kids were raised, is a safe, friendly neighborhood where there used to be
234 more wildlife

235 - that she was concerned that having a trail would bring mountain bikers that are
236 not everyday bikers but extreme bikers that would use a trail as a shortcut to the Sleepy
237 Hollow Nordic Center making her concerned about the upkeep of a trail and bike traffic
238 on the road making leaving her driveway unsafe

239 - that she was in favor of discontinuing the road

240

241 The next group was invited to speak were stakeholders, individuals that are interested
242 parties or committee members

243

244 **Virginia Clarke, Chair of the Planning Commission, was sworn in and stated:**

245 - that the Richmond Planning Commission supports the retention of the road as a
246 Class 4 road. The Commission concluded that retaining the section of Williams Hill Rd.
247 supports the 2018 plan goals and actions to ensure residents will be able to meet basic
248 needs and access affordable foods and services, including in times of emergency, as
249 well as support or provide further services for residents when possible, to increase
250 resilience of infrastructure to survive a variety of disasters, furthermore retaining the
251 right of way in the location of this Class 4 road, best serves the interests of Richmond.
252 In terms of the planning practice, keeping the right-of-way would enable the Town and
253 its residents to utilize the right-of-way in case of unforeseen circumstances such as
254 prolonged road closures on the Hinesburg Rd. By retaining the road, the Town could
255 flexibly plan for future growth as a collection of connecting roads improves traffic
256 circulation in congested areas. Maintaining a trail over this Class 4 road is consistent
257 with the Town Plan goals with the Richmond Planning Committee citing the following: to
258 decrease the amount of fossil fuel used for transportation by Town government,
259 residents, and businesses through conservation and improved efficiency, encourage
260 walking and the use of bicycles and facilitate in the substitution of electricity and
261 renewable fuel for fossil fuels, maintain a complete streets policy that encourages
262 walking and biking in addition to vehicle travel, support interconnectivity of trails and
263 connectivity of trails with destinations such as the market and park and ride in order to
264 provide non-motorized means of travel, support and create outdoor opportunities that
265 are available to the public. The Planning Commissions conclusions on the matter are
266 based on the following material: the summery of events and proposal leading up to the
267 Hearing, information provided by the Town Manager, Town Planner and various
268 attorneys, information regarding the disposition of other Class 4 roads in Richmond, and
269 above all consulting with the Town Plan.

270 - that the Planning Commission considered the statement made over several
271 meetings before it was approved for submittal.

272

273 **Eric Filkorn (previously sworn in)** said he wanted to be clear that he is a member of
274 the Transportation Committee but did not participate in any deliberation or vote on the
275 letter but did approve the Minutes of the meeting. Christine asked to clarify whether he
276 voted against the letter or did not vote, Eric responded that he did not vote.
277

278 **Cathleen Gent, Chair of the Transportation Committee, was sworn in and stated:**

- 279 - that she submitted a formal memo but not going to read it
- 280 - that on August 10th the Transportation Committee approved unanimously the
281 motion to send a letter to the Planning Committee and Selectboard that supported the
282 public interest in keeping the Class 4 section of Williams Hill Rd. and opposed its
283 discontinuance
- 284 - that Erik Filkorn and Chris Cole did not vote and that those who voted were
285 herself, Mark Damico, Jon Kart, Allen Knowles, and James Floyd
- 286 - that the committee is working on a master plan for biking in the south end of
287 Town and there will be many opportunities for discussion
288

289 **Willie Lee, Trails Committee, was sworn in and stated:**

- 290 - that there had been a lot of discussion about this being a mountain bike trail and
291 the trail was not meant to be primarily a mountain bike trail, that the trails are
292 maintained for many activities and people
- 293 - that he wanted to clear up information provided earlier saying mountain bikes are
294 not banned in the Andrews Community Forest
- 295 - that parking is talked about all the time and is something that is considered and
296 worked on with the Parking Committee and that parking was not being advocated for on
297 Williams Hill Rd.
- 298 - that Richmond is a rural community on the edge of a larger city and having
299 people come recreate is going to happen and needs to be managed. He thought it was
300 misguided to say we do not want people to come here.
- 301 - that he appreciated the comparison to the Kingdom Trails that have 100 miles of
302 trails that bring people from across the US and Canada, he said Richmond is not East
303 Burke and we do not have the infrastructure they have. This is about connecting a
304 small section of road to another small section of road and would be much safer than
305 being on a paved road. He said he lives up there and did not think it would take away
306 from the neighborhood feel.
- 307 - that he did not like the “them vs us” that has been going on with the landowners
308 of Williams Hill Rd and thought having a process related to having trails would be
309 awesome. He thought we all have the same goals and could work together.
310

311 Jay Furr asked Willie how to prevent people from parking, Willie responded the same
312 way we have everywhere else, educate them about where to park and give out tickets
313 and tow if needed. Education said, was not perfect but as an example, over time
314 people have shifted from parking at the Round Church to Cochran’s
315

316 Christine asked him where the request for the trail started, he said there was always an
317 interest in opening that right of way up and there was not a lot of thought behind going
318 up and checking it out and there was a confrontation, afterwards Josh was asked about

319 the process. He said one of the missions of the Trails Committee has been connectivity
320 and looking at maps it seemed like this met the goal, that was where the idea came
321 from.

322

323 **Tyler Merritt, 142 Cochran Rd., was sworn in and stated:**

- 324 - that he is a member of the Andrews Forest Committee, and they are in the
- 325 process of designing great trail systems that will eventually connect to Jericho
- 326 - that there had been some parking issues across from the trailhead and leaving
- 327 notes and educating people had gotten a good response
- 328 - that he thought the proposed trail would be like Snipe Ireland Rd and there has
- 329 been no motorized use and people enjoy it
- 330 - that he did not think the Town should give up any piece of land

331

332 The final group was invited to speak.

333

334 **Bob Marquis was sworn in and stated:**

- 335 - that the problem was the success of biking having created circumstances that
- 336 cannot be controlled and that was a scary thing. He relayed an experience on Cochran
- 337 Rd where a large group of bikers came at him while he and his wife were riding and
- 338 nearly caused them to fall off their bikes because they did not move to allow them to
- 339 pass
- 340 - that there was someone older than Jack he knew who when asked did not recall
- 341 there ever being a connection between the roads and called it a goat path
- 342 - that the Selectboard was charged with deciding what the public good is so he
- 343 asked that when deliberating the Selectboard think of those that will be harmed if a trail
- 344 is built. Bob thought the people that want the connection will not be the people who
- 345 lose anything. He said it is uncomfortable when people you do not know pass through
- 346 your property. He asked if we really needed more trails or to give in to outside agendas,
- 347 it did not make sense to him to have any more than we already have. He felt if a trail
- 348 went in it would forever change the places people now have.

349

350 **Peter Moore, 1272 Williams Hill Rd, was sworn in and stated:**

- 351 - that Peter appreciated having a transparent process and a decision based on the
- 352 statute having had a prior experience elsewhere where it was not that way
- 353 - that he is friends with those that do and those that do not want the trail. He
- 354 wanted the trail and felt some were narrow to their own interests. He said the abutters
- 355 have a Williams Hill Rd easement in their deeds just as he does and there is a reason.
- 356 Just because the bill was not found was not something to hang your hat on, it should be
- 357 questioned why those easements for Williams Hill Road exist
- 358 - that he has wanted to get to the other small road and has not because it has not
- 359 been clear where the Town right-of-way has been, and he did not want to go through
- 360 someone else's property uninvited. He said the Town has the ability to resolve this so
- 361 people can pass through peacefully and quietly. He wants to be good neighbors and
- 362 did not want there to be winners and losers.
- 363 - that all three (3) Town committees voted to retain the roads, he did not want
- 364 motorized vehicles because it would absolutely change the neighborhood but thought

365 the solution was to convert to a trail. He said it could always be returned into a Class 3
366 road. Another reason he said is that there was common ground, he said there have
367 been a few people on Williams Hill Rd, who have chosen not to participate, that
368 encouraged the Trail Committee to look at this. He said the Selectboard could create
369 an ordinance that would solve the parking problem, using no parking signs and ticketing
370 people works. He offered to help pay for the signs. He said having a process created
371 with input from the community was needed.

372 - that the idea this is a wildlife corridor was not worrisome to him because there is
373 so much land that is undevelopable with 10 acre zoning and the worrisome issues,
374 noise, parking, and emergency vehicle issues could all be addressed and still have a
375 trail.

376 - that he wanted to let everyone know he would use that trail for various reasons,
377 hiking, biking, snowshoeing, and walking and did not consider himself "extreme" at any
378 of those things. He felt there would be a lot of kids who used the trail, and it would be a
379 walkthrough for people who wanted to see friends on the other side.

380 - that he sent Josh items he had previously sent that did not make it onto the
381 website yet. Christine asked when they were sent, he said they were sent over the
382 summer, and he forwarded them to Josh so the submission dates could be seen. Josh
383 confirmed he received several emails from him.

384

385 **Penny Rand was sworn in and stated:**

386 - that she lives in the village in the old parsonage for 22 years

387 - that she described growing up in Vermont saying she has skied and hiked many
388 Class 4 roads and trails with great enjoyment

389 - that she agreed with Tyler Merritt that the Town should hold onto the public right-
390 of- way

391 - that parking in Richmond is a problem, most people do the right thing, but some
392 people turn around in her driveway, picnic on her lawn, and take her berries or apples
393 from her yard, but most people do not. She wanted people to know there will be people
394 who do things they should not do, but most people do the right thing. She heard
395 vandalism might happen and was saddened about the negativity being focused on
396 saying she wanted to encourage a culture that encourages pedestrian safe paths.

397 - that Williams Hill Rd is a public road, she rides her bike from Town to the end of
398 Williams Hill Rd and does not consider herself an extreme biker, she would be
399 interested in using the connector road and not be on Huntington Rd to get to Sleepy
400 Hollow as well as using it just to enjoy. She and her family were representative of
401 people that would use that trail.

402 - that the Town has a Trails Committee that is trying to create more trails for our
403 community and this trail would connect Old Farm Rd off Hinesburg Rd and there was
404 not some fantastic view or anything up there to attract huge numbers of people to come
405 and hike the trail. Penny felt it would not compromise but enhance the neighborhood.

406

407 **Ed Wells, 44 Cochran Rd., was sworn in and stated:**

408 - that when he was approached to sign the petition, he was a bit ambivalent since
409 he had been on the Trails Committee and that he used the trails around Cochran Rd for
410 years

- 411 - that he thought the Class 4 road was an asset that should be kept available to
412 the public for future generations to use
413 - that he observed that it is hard to police the trails once they are built, he thought
414 the Selectboard should go cautiously
415 - that most of the bikers he has encountered have been gracious and kind
416 - that he has often wondered about the impact of trails on the wildlife and has
417 thought about having a trails management plan but never had the time to actually work
418 on one and encouraged to Selectboard to provide direction and assistance to the Trails
419 Committee to have one done as the Andrews Community Forest has done
420 - that he appreciated the biking and trail community and with the internet it is
421 something people from all over can come and enjoy what we have to offer
422 - that there is a petition circulating about all the traffic on Cochran Rd and he has
423 been working with Josh, the Police Chief, and Pete about it and hoped there would be
424 some serious conversation about it
425 - that it is a time of growth and excitement and a great time to be in Richmond that
426 with some management will be great for everyone
427

428 Christine asked him about retaining the Class 4 road and wondered how he felt a trail
429 should be built. He responded a trail would be ok, but there should be some buy in from
430 the people around it. Christine said that would be by managing it so there is some
431 peace of mind. He said he did not have good answers, just advised the Selectboard to
432 move cautiously and educate people to mitigate some of the problems.
433

434 **Karen Yaggy, Dugway Rd., was sworn in and stated:**

- 435 - that Dugway Rd is the visitor mecca of Richmond and is busy year round and
436 parking was a problem but this year when the police walked around with a bull horn
437 telling drivers to move their cars or get ticketed and possibly towed, it solved the
438 problem. She said from her yard she can hear people having fun and enjoyed it. She
439 also wanted to reassure the people on Williams Hill Road that having walkers, bikers,
440 runners, and people around you hardly know they are there until they're gone and they
441 do not infringe on your private space
442 - that being outdoors is important for good physical and mental health
443 - that a one-foot-wide trail is not as impactful as you think it might be
444 - that there is no guessing 100 years from now what will be needed or be of use,
445 so she encouraged having a trail there and keeping the right-of-way
446

447 The order of procedure being completed Christine invited people to respond to anything
448 heard, ask a question, or respond to anything they heard to come forward.
449

450 **Mark Aiken, Johnnie Brook Rd., was sworn in and stated:**

- 451 - that he lives at the end of a trailhead with a Class 4 designation
452 - that the Town should hold onto the road for future generations
453 - that he wanted to report on his experience with the trail on his road which he said
454 is a major biking and hiking artery. He observed that wildlife seems to be thriving, hikers
455 and bikers do not impact the wildlife from his observations and the trail has parking and
456 more traffic than the Williams Hill Rd trail would ever see. He thought property owners

457 should know he has never seen a beer bottle, he has experienced, kindness and
458 courtesy and hopes that the Williams Hill Road residents get to experience the same.
459 He would use the trail if built. He loves the sense of community and encouraged the
460 Williams Hill Rd people that he hopes if there is a trail, they have similar experiences
461 when the same users come to their trail
462

463 **Doreen Marquis (previously sworn in)**

464 - that she had done some research before coming to the meeting and there have
465 been varying statements about the width of the trail, she said she read that the VT
466 Cross Trails requires ADA accessibility and the trail would have to be a certain width
467 and noted that the Jonnie Brook trail is not universally accessible and wondered if there
468 was some liability to the Town saying if we are not careful about what we are doing it
469 could be a problem. She was concerned that there is no document that provides
470 guidance.
471

472 **Willie Lee, Trails Committee (previously sworn in)**

473 - that the trail would not be part of the VT Cross Trails network so there was no
474 ADA compliancy necessary
475 - that most the trails that have been designed are 2' or less, some seem wider if
476 you are in an actual roadbed
477

478 **Chase Rosenburg, Trails Committee, was sworn in and stated:**

479 - that he felt an emotional push back to the language of the petition and the
480 process around the Selectboard being bound to hold a hearing on a petition that felt
481 inflammatory and rhetorical. He said that with his background as an ecologist, and a
482 trail user, he agreed with some regarding not wanting uncontrolled development for
483 economic gain, and although he is a Trails Committee member he was speaking as an
484 individual who felt there was a campaign to characterize the Trails Committee as part of
485 a bigger mountain bike expansion scheme and it was not
486 - that he thought this would be a resource used by locals and those from a
487 distance and that the trail would not attract mountain bikers since it would not be part of
488 mountain biker's greater route. His opinion was that it would be used thoughtfully. He
489 would use the trail for jogging, Nordic skiing, and hiking.
490

491 **Elizabeth Parke was sworn in and stated:**

492 - that she wanted to have a correction to an exhibit provided by the surveyor,
493 "Exhibit 3B, page 1, the Williams Hill sketch" saying the parcel identified as "O'Neal
494 parcel PA0642" is owned by Julia and Elizabeth Parke not O'Neal.
495 - that she was in favor of discontinuing the road for the safety of those that live
496 there
497

498 Christine had Josh display the Exhibit under discussion and the parcel ID being
499 requesting to be corrected was identified. Josh responded that it would be looked into
500 and corrected.
501

502 **Virginia Clarke, Planning Commission (previously sworn in)**

503 - had a question about previous testimony and wondered if the parcel owned by
504 Julia and Elizabeth Parke had any other access than the Class 4 road. Christine asked
505 if Elizabeth Parke if she would like to answer that question. Elizabeth Parke said she
506 was not prepared to answer that question.

507
508 Christine said it would be an open question but unless there is a public record it could
509 be used as a reference the answer could not be searched for.

510
511 **Joan Hathaway (previously sworn in) :**
512 - asked to have the zoning checked since it was said there was ten (10) acre
513 zoning but thought it was one (1) acre, Christine responded that could be checked on
514

515 **Virginia Clarke, Planning Commission, (previously sworn in):**
516 - responded that it was one (1) acre zoning
517

518 **Peter Moore, (previously sworn in)**
519 - responded that there are Covenants in most of the deeds for the properties on
520 his part of Williams Hill that require a ten (10) acre minimum and he had twenty-three
521 (23) acres, from this end of Williams Hill there were large unbuilt parcels and because of
522 the Covenants the contiguous land could not be built on.

523
524 Christine said it would be clarified before deliberation and made a final call for anyone to
525 speak. She thanked everyone saying it was a new process for them all, that the newest
526 board member had not made the site visit but had done the visit independently and that
527 Bard would be required to do the site visit before he would be able to deliberate. There
528 would be a response bound by statute. She was thankful for the courteous, respectful
529 way this was done and grateful for the participation in making the hearing productive
530 and that would be helpful in making a difficult decision. David said everyone has
531 noticed tempers are short and patience low over the last six (6) months and appreciated
532 the civility that took place tonight.

533
534 Christine formally closed the hearing at 9:15PM
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