



Josh Arneson <jarneson@richmondvt.gov>

Williams Hill Note

2 messages

Mark Aiken <aikenaction@gmail.com>

Sun, Aug 8, 2021 at 9:02 PM

To: dasander@aol.com, jarneson@richmondvt.gov

To the Richmond Selectboard,

I would appreciate it if you could share this note with all members of the Selectboard.

I am writing the select board regarding the petition from some residents to remove the Class 4 road designation at the top of Williams Hill Road.

Mainly, I want to urge the Town to keep the road designation. As a Town, we do not know what changes may come up in the future that may precipitate our wanting access to that right-of-way. It doesn't make sense that, because a few residents are disgruntled about some limited pedestrian traffic on a public corridor, the entire Town relinquish our flexibility to make changes that may be needed in the future.

Further, for me, it would be one thing if the residents had worked with the town or followed the zoning laws that apply to the corridor leading up to their petition. Rather, they have stood in the way of our Trails Committee on a corridor that belongs to the Town. I'm not excited about seeing that stance rewarded; I'd prefer we don't.

If anyone objects to my sentiments based on the fact that I "wouldn't understand" their situation, I would like to shine a light on my road and our similar situation. I live on Johnnie Brook Road. The end of our road also has a Class 4 designation and -- different than the Williams Hill group -- many of my neighbors have supported (and volunteered) to make that corridor a well-used trail. Also, with the Richmond Mountain Trails at the end of our dead-end dirt road, residents of Johnnie Brook Road see traffic and trail use levels that the Williams Hill group will never experience with their trail.

As I haven't been able to attend prior meetings (other than to watch the replays) and the issue isn't heavily reported in the paper, I apologize and realize that I may have some details, classifications, and legalese in this matter wrong, but I am aware of the basic premise of the situation.

Richmond is a beautiful place and our trails are a gift and a resource. Property values near trails go up not down (which surprises me about their lack of support). I ask the Selectboard members, in considering this question, to not only deny any request to declassify the roadway but to see to it that a trail be established at the end of Williams Hill Road. Generations of grateful Richmond residents will be served by your making the right decision on this matter.

Yours truly,
Mark Aiken
Johnnie Brook Road
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Josh Arneson <jarneson@richmondvt.gov>

Mon, Aug 9, 2021 at 10:41 AM

To: Mark Aiken <aikenaction@gmail.com>

Cc: Bard Hill <bard.hill@richmondvt.org>, Christine Werneke <christine.werneke@richmondvt.org>, David Sander <david.sander@richmondvt.org>, June Heston <june.heston@richmondvt.org>

Mark,

Thank you for your email regarding Williams Hill Rd. I have copied the Selectboard on my reply. Selectboard members, please see Mark's email regarding Williams Hill Rd. below.

Josh Arneson

Town Manager
Town of Richmond

8/9/2021

Town of Richmond VT Mail - Williams Hill Note

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