



Josh Arneson <jarneson@richmondvt.gov>

Fw: Class 4 section of Williams Hill Rd

1 message

Christine Werneke <christine.werneke@richmondvt.org>
To: Josh Arneson <jarneson@richmondvt.gov>

Mon, Sep 20, 2021 at 9:53 PM

From: Otie <otie@gmavt.net>

Sent: Thursday, September 16, 2021 9:23 PM

To: Christine Werneke <christine.werneke@richmondvt.org>; David Sander <david.sander@richmondvt.org>; bard hill <bard.hill@richmondvt.org>; June Heston <june.heston@richmondvt.org>; Jay Furr <jay.furr@richmondvt.org>; jaronson@richmondvt.org <jaronson@richmondvt.org>

Subject: Class 4 section of Williams Hill Rd

Dear Madam Chair,

Thank you for taking the time to visit on Tuesday. We live in a quiet, peaceful community and have worked together over the years to manage the abundant natural habitat surrounding our homes. We respect the privacy of our neighbors. The interest of a group of cyclists and hikers to open Williams Hill Road as a recreation thoroughfare is in direct conflict with the character of our neighborhood as it has existed for more than 60 years.

There are abundant trails in Richmond and surrounding areas that mountain bikers have adopted or built for fun and wellness. I know many mountain bikers who are good people, but the trails they ride often bisect wildlife corridors, cause erosion and other environmental disruptions, bring noise, lights and debris. Hikers have less impact, but new trails can cause the same environmental harm.

To consider Williams Hill Road as part of the Trail Committee's mission to open corridors that connect communities is misguided in the case of this class 4 section. It would primarily serve an elite group of cyclists and hikers – those who are fit enough to power up either side of Williams Hill - while destroying the security and peace of our neighborhood community and the wildlife we share it with.

Maybe only a few avid recreationalists would actually use this trail, but that does not minimize our concerns about disruption. I need to emphasize that once you open the trail for any use, you can't really control how it is used. For example, people who don't have the stamina to bike or hike up the hills will park at the end of the road to access the trail, furthering the disruption and posing hazards for emergency vehicles that may need to turn around. And people use motorized vehicles even where prohibited, everywhere.

Let the road remain uncleared, let it continue to stay unimpeded for the owls and deer. Don't add to the erosion in the stream bed. Let us keep our peace and quiet. The town has already spent a lot of time and money to review the road yielding only a presumed right of way, and any action to open the trail will undoubtedly cost a lot more going forward. Let the hikers and mountain bikers find a way to connect their myriad trails in Richmond by working politely as they do elsewhere with willing landowners. Focus on making connections that will be meaningful to more people, without destroying the peace and security of established communities.

We would like the town to abandon the class 4 section of Williams Hill Road and put an end to this perennial disruption.

Respectfully,
Otie Filkorn
1379 Williams Hill Road