

PUBLIC HEARING – February 10, 2020

Present: Margo Connors, John Strasser
Jennifer Gaudette

Road Agent Douglas Glover, OIC Zack Chicoine, Angel Larcom, Steve & Irene Dawson. Steve Monsein, Jim & Deb Dyckman, Sarah & Mark Desrochers, Erin Godbout, Peter Feick, Ralph Bradley, John Mahi, Jim Hunt, Kim Wescott, Hugh Hawkins, Nancy Martland

The board advised the audience that this was a hearing and that no decision would be made tonight as there are only two Select Board members present at this time. The Dyckman's have requested permission to ride up the side of Valley Vista Road in the town right of way to the top where they cross (with permission) private lands owned by Champagne and Hawkins to reach the State trail system. They also have permission to cross the Hunt and Bradley properties on the way up.

Erin Godbout questioned the notification process and felt if you allow on one road what stops it from being on all town roads. Felt it was too big a decision for board and should be a future warrant article at town meeting. She also noted that the road is difficult and challenging visually.

Deb Dyckman questioned what dangers that been experienced are. Doug Glover acknowledged that it is challenging but there are steeper roads in town. Mark Desrochers said they have no problem on the road and that wildlife are more of a problem.

Irene Dawson was concerned about the snowmobiles going up and over her driveway entrance and the visibility when doing so.

Steve Monsein stated that residents bought their homes not expecting to hear noise all day and night. This is not Gorham or Pittsburg where there are plenty of trails to access. Doug Glover advised that the snowmobiles are not allowed to leave the trail bed and this request is only for private access over two properties who have granted permission to the trail system. Access to the trail system is private and the residents have a key to the gate and no one else can use. OIC Chicoine explained that the property at the top of Valley Vista is well posted and if anyone else tried to use they would be trespassing and it would be a police issue.

The Dawson's are very concerned as they could have hit a snowmobile coming out of their driveway and that it is dangerous. Jim Hunt is a landowner who supported the use of his property and felt that meeting the town plow on the road is more hazardous and louder than the snowmobiles.

Ralph Bradley and John Gilbert asked several questions for clarification and they allow the snowmobiles to cross their property. Question about liability and riders advised that all have liability privately and through their State Registration process.

There was also a question if the snowmobiles could be trailered to the top of Valley Vista and it was noted that a trailer parked would interfere with the Town plowing and turning around.

Nancy Martland questioned if the town would be setting a precedent if they were to approve. She felt there are two parties involved, both have an inconvenience and the people who want to use the trail can by trailering to the top of the road.

Doug Glover detailed the areas in Sugar Hill that currently have snowmobile trails and the Town has given permission to the Lisbon Stump Jumpers Club to cross several roads in the trail system in Sugar Hill.

The request is from the Dyckman's for them to access the trail system by riding up the town right of way. They go up in the morning and return later in the day usually once a week.

Steve Monsein questioned what had changed since last year when the board wrote a letter stating that all residents must approve of the use going forward. Felt the spirit of the letter and the property owners thought the problem was resolved. The board answered that they became aware of an RSA that allowed the board to make a decision on Class V roads. The board thought that the issue was resolved and hoped that the residents would work out the problem.

Hugh Hawkins stated that the Desrochers and the Dyckman's were allowed to cross his property at the top of Valley Vista. Jim Hunt also noted that he gave permission for the Dyckman's to cross his property as did Ralph Bradley.

The board thanked all for attending and voicing their concerns and opinions. The board will wait to make a decision when Mr. Bielefield returns.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Gaudette
Administrative Assistant