

**Town of Haverhill**  
**SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**OHRV PUBLIC HEARING**  
**Thursday, February 22, 2024, 6:00 p.m.**  
**Robert E. Clifford Memorial Building**

**Select Board Present:**

Chair Phil Blanchard; members Rod O’Shana, Joe Longacre (joined at 6:13 pm), Kevin Knapp, and Carolyn Hofmann. A quorum was met.

**Town Employees Present:**

Brigitte Codling, Town Manager  
Jennifer Boucher, Assistant Town Manager

**Members of the Public Present:**

Lorraine Prescott	Ron Hurlburt
Alex Nuti-de-Biasi	Susie Tann
Vickie Wyman	Robert St. Pierre
Kristy Odiorne	Truman Sloan
Eric Odiorne	Catherine Bullock
Cristina Trifon	James Bullock
Myles Trifon	Ken Kinder
Archie Steenburgh	Diane Arel
Martha Steenburgh	Bob Arel
Gene Popien	Don Rundstrom
Wayne Talbot	

**Members of the Public Online:**

Joanne Young  
Bob Maccini  
Martha Cunningham  
Howard Hatch  
Dennis Cunningham  
Jessica Moody  
Smas Sean  
Skip Gadwah  
Ryan Moody

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Blanchard called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

## **ATTENDANCE/ROLL CALL**

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

## **AGENDA APPROVAL**

**MOTION #1:** K. Knapp moved to approve the Agenda as written. R. O'Shana seconded the motion.

**Voice Vote:** A roll call vote was taken. O'Shana – aye, Knapp – aye, Hofmann – aye, Blanchard – aye. The motion passed unanimously.

## **OHRV PUBLIC HEARING**

Chair Blanchard reviewed the process that will be followed for this public hearing. He explained the Board has the ultimate decision on all roads; this is not an issue the legislative body will vote on. However, the Board wants to hear the public's opinion on this issue.

**MOTION #2:** C. Hoffman moved to open the public hearing. R. O'Shana seconded the motion.

**Voice Vote:** A roll call vote was taken. O'Shana – aye, Knapp – aye, Blanchard – aye, Hoffman – aye. The motion passed unanimously.

**Ron Hurlburt** appeared before the Board to present an overview of the proposal to open roads to North Haverhill to ATV use. He feels it will benefit the local businesses, especially with the lack of winter and snowmobile commerce. He noted the town will not incur any cost from this and it will benefit people and businesses, as it will bring tax dollars to the town. He said most businesses in town are in support of this. He said many towns in New Hampshire have approved this and have found it to be successful.

He explained the vast majority of ATV users self-regulate and enforce the rules. He said there have been no complaints about violations by ATV users. If there are complaints after the roads are opened to ATV use, citizens can petition the Town to close the roads again. He reviewed the level of noise an ATV creates compared to other equipment. He noted the amount of damage an ATV could cause to a road versus a pickup truck or SUV.

He said additional funding will be available, as additional miles of roadways are opened. There is also material available to repair damage to roads, if they are open to ATV use. Landowners are granting permission for ATV use, but roads are needed to access these lands. He believes this is a win-win situation for everyone.

**Bob Arel** said four of the six property owners on Pond Circle are not in favor of opening their road to ATVs. He said it is not safe and cited an emergency evacuation in Mountain Lakes.

**Susie Tann** said she does not feel mixed traffic is safe on County Road. She noted speeding has increased on her road. She listed the names of a number of people who agreed with this.

**A resident** of Flat Iron Road said there have been a lot of problems with ATVs on this and other roads. He does not want the road opened to ATV use. He said it is a Class VI road that his family maintains. He does not believe recreation belongs on a road.

**A business owner** on Lime Kiln Road noted Page Road, Flat Iron Road, Brooks Road, Jeffers Hill Road, Lime Kiln Road, Brown Hill Road, and Sinclair Road should not be opened to ATV use, as they do not access any other areas. It would defeat the purpose of accessing ATV trails to open these roads. He said roads were established for commerce, not recreational use.

**A resident** said Brown Hill should not be opened to ATV use. It will be a mess if these vehicles use this road.

**Truman Sloan** expressed his opinion.

**Catherine Bullock** of Dartmouth College Highway noted the high speeds on her road. She does not feel it is a good idea to open the roads to ATV use.

**Dave Tobin** (sp) noted a section of Brooks Road was impassable and an ATV couldn't navigate the road.

**Ken Kinder** supported not opening Brown Hill Road and the surrounding roads in part because of the wetlands between Jeffers Hill Road, Brooks Road, and Brown Hill Road.

**Myles Trifon** of Brooks Road said he and his wife are opposed to opening Brooks Road.

**Gene Popien** of Pond Circle said his road was temporarily opened this year and there have been a number of incidents, including a Jeep driving across his yard. He said opening the roads will detract from the rural aspect of the area.

**A resident** said these are Town-owned roads that the ATV clubs will try to maintain. It will bring business from 4-wheeler clubs and create connections to other towns.

**Diane Arel** of Pond Circle noted issues with speeding since Pond Circle was opened. She is not in support of opening this road to ATVs. Chair Blanchard said opening Pond Circle was a trial run. It was already voted on and added, so if she would like it to be removed, this would have to be brought up to the Board at another time.

**Vern Brigham** of Warren said they were the first town in the state to legally open Town roads. He agreed that non-connecting roads might not need to be opened now. However, if they want to connect them with something in the future, having them open is a step in the process. He noted that any road that is opened and signed open, and is accepted by the Bureau of Trails, falls under the state's blanket \$2 million insurance policy, which removes liability from the Town. He noted Warren and Wentworth Police Departments have grants from the state to patrol the trails. He said the number of issues they have had is very small. He noted their trail administrator fixes their Class VI roads with grant money, making the roads passable.

**Robert St. Pierre** said his understanding is the intent of this is to open connector roads. He noted areas where there didn't seem to be connecting routes.

B. Codling asked if ATVs can cross state roads to access trails on either side and Mark Lane said they can.

The trail administrator from Warren said he understands these concerns. It is a fine balance to support the community economically. He noted outdoor recreation enthusiasts are welcome in their community because they don't put a burden on the school system. He noted the grants he obtains to maintain Class VI roads. He said if property owners are willing to work with the clubs, they can mitigate some of these issues with the roads.

**Steve Mosher** of Barnet Trail Blazers, Barnet, VT, said his club has experience with this issue. He said they would like to ride on private land. He said snowmobilers leave trash that the 4-wheeler owners have to clean up. He said individuals are concerned about ATVs accessing the roads and interfering with walking and biking, but are not concerned about automobiles doing the same. He noted ATVs have the same rules as automobile operators in VT. He said the ATV club and citizens have to work together to make this a success.

**A resident** asked who would enforce the rules for ATVs. Chair Blanchard explained most of the existing rules are state rules, so are enforced by the state. Any rules the Town adopted would have to be enforced by the Town. B. Codling offered information on Haverhill's rules.

**A resident** of Brooks Road said she is not in support of a community that has roads open to ATVs.

**A resident** said this will help bring in commerce.

**Martha Steenburgh** asked about the age of ATV riders and noted possible problems with young riders not being careful enough.

**MOTION #3:** R. O'Shana moved to leave the public hearing and return to the public meeting. K. Knapp seconded the motion.

**Voice Vote:** A roll call vote was taken. O'Shana – aye, Knapp – aye, Blanchard – aye, Hoffman – aye, Longacre – aye. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Blanchard explained the Board can move to exclude the roads discussed at this meeting from the warrant article. Residents can attend the Town Meeting to vote for or against the warrant article. He described the reasoning behind presenting this warrant article.

R. O'Shana asked if this article could be tabled before Town Meeting. He suggested adding dead-end roads to this list. B. Codling said she has this information. Chair Blanchard said the Board could work with the ATV club on this issue.

**MOTION #4:** R. O'Shana moved to approve the list of excluded roads, including the list of dead-end streets off mostly state highways. C. Hofmann seconded the motion.

**Discussion:** J. Longacre noted that ATVs were allowed to access the rail trail. He was apprehensive at first, but is pleased how the riders cooperate and navigate traffic on Clark Pond Road. He said the Board should review the list and look at each road in detail to determine why each should be excluded.

**Voice Vote:** A roll call vote was taken. O'Shana – aye, Knapp – aye, Blanchard – aye, Hoffman – aye, Longacre – nay. The motion passed 4-1-0.

The Board discussed who is eligible to vote at Town Meeting.

## MISCELLANEOUS

**SB 448:** B. Codling reviewed the history of SB 448. She explained that an amendment to the Bill was then presented that was basically a complete different Bill, which recommended resetting the Woodsville District. There was a second amendment proposed that proposed to add language to RSA 52.

**Woodsville Fire District Meeting:** The Board will meet with the Woodsville Fire District on February 26, 2024, to discuss merging the highway and fire departments. She reported she and J. Boucher have been invited to Concord to work with other representatives on the language of the second amendment.

## ADJOURN

**MOTION #5:** K. Knapp moved to adjourn the meeting. R. O'Shana seconded the motion.

**Voice Vote:** A roll call vote was taken. O'Shana – aye, Knapp – aye, Blanchard – aye, Longacre – aye, Hoffman – aye. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting ended at 7:37 p.m.

## Zoom Recording Link:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/N-5RmfBMtLgpznliFf51E6me0E45S562v1pWhmlWFxOmemcQIn3WYhSDjT\\_PDdkJ.QWMir9EliQ7Af8dR](https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/N-5RmfBMtLgpznliFf51E6me0E45S562v1pWhmlWFxOmemcQIn3WYhSDjT_PDdkJ.QWMir9EliQ7Af8dR)

**Passcode: 0zXsp49L**

Respectfully submitted,  
Beth Hanggeli