

**Middletown Springs Select Board Minutes
Regular Meeting August 25, 2016 Approved**

SELECT BOARD PRESENT: Herb Childress, C. Fenton, Patty Kenyon, Terry Redfield

TOWN OFFICERS PRESENT: Laura Castle, Town Clerk; Meredith Morgan, School Board; Bill Reed, Road Foreman

PUBLIC PRESENT: Jim Durfee, Marie Durfee, Claudia Gonda, Sarah Grimm, Don Hemenway, Pat Hemenway, Linda Hurcomb, Tom Hurcomb, Phil Nietupski, Sharen Underwood

VISITORS PRESENT: Jim Philbrook and David Noel, West Rutland ATV club; Danny Hale, Vermont ATV Sportsmens' Association (VASA).

CALLED TO ORDER: 7:02 PM

Minutes: C. Fenton moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of August 11; P. Kenyon 2nd; [*all in favor, motion carried*].

Public Comment: Jim Philbrook and David Noel, West Rutland ATV Club, and Danny Hale, executive director of VASA came to present the request to open some town roads to ATV use. VASA provides tools to manage ATV use (maintenance, signage, enforcement, etc.) on public roads. VASA has an MOU with VT Fish and Wildlife to help enforce road use, has also helped to fund some few hours of sheriff's supervision during the summer as well, and contributes a little funding for road restoration and runoff control if ATV use contributes to damage.

VASA recommends having an ordinance that outlines the parameters of use. T. Redfield went to the Ira select board meeting in early August to see their ordinance and management; he's also spoken with Tinmouth, Wells and Poultney, none of which have any roads currently designated for ATV use.

There are 15,000 registered ATVs in VT and only 2,500 VASA trail stickers; these small proportion of users are paying the weight for all other users. The request by VASA and West Rutland ATV club does not include dirt bikes or snowmobiles.

Comments included:

- Are we opening the door to too much use? Once we allow some, are we implicitly allowing all?
- There are already lots of people using ATVs and dirt bikes, creating a nuisance for neighbors. ("Parents using ATVs as babysitters.")
- The 2010 request for use for ATVs down to the four corners and the Grant's Store was voted down.
- The town does not have the authority to permit ATV use on state highways, but we do have control of authorizing use on town highways.
- If the permit allows only down North Street, vehicles could use the parking area at the Town Office or along North Street to then walk to Grant's.

- VASA and ATVs are an entirely separate entity from VAST and snowmobiles. The request at hand is ATV only.
- Any increase in traffic at the corner may impact the use of the town office and library.
- Bill has reported good interaction with club members over the years. Many more of the problems have come from freelance casual users.
- How will anybody know who's part of an ATV club and who's just independent? (Registered ATVs have a VT license plate, and VASA has a white sticker on the ATV. West Rutland club has about 150 members. There are currently regional trails in West Rutland, Ira, Danby, Pawlet and Dorset.)
- North Street is already busy enough at some sections that we may not want to add more traffic, especially that which may not be as visible as a car.
- There are already a fair number of ATVs in use, not regulated in any way. VASA has helped some communities with added enforcement.
- The ATV community has helped to provide emergency services during Irene, etc.
- Riders between 12 and 18 have to have a Vermont safety certificate to ride.
- An ordinance, if adopted, would allow a one-year trial to get real evidence on the table.
- Would this mostly be for the recreation use of people from out of town?
- The Middletown Springs request is a connection between existing trails to the northeast and southwest; opening these roads to the ATVs will complete a longer trail system for more sightseeing through Rutland County.

Town Officers: Meredith Morgan has the VT Agency of Transportation's Certificate of Completion for the Safe Routes to School sidewalk and paving project for School House Road. P. Kenyon moved to accept and sign the Memorandum of Acceptance for the Safe Routes to School project; H. Childress 2nd [*all in favor, motion carried*].

Public Lands: The town cemetery stone straightening project has been completed, with all labor and materials paid. The Vermont Old Cemetery Association has been notified that their grant, although appreciated, will not be required. There is still work that can be done at the old cemetery, to be evaluated this fall.

Highway: The crew has been installing street signs on all of the roads that were previously not marked. Quotes are still to come on the culvert headers for the Dayton Hill Road project.

Flammable materials cabinet and eyewash station are now installed in the town's garage, thanks to a workplace safety grant.

Bill has interviewed one applicant for the highway maintenance person. H. Childress moved that the Town hire Frank Sears as a part-time highway maintenance crew member for a two-week trial period, at a rate of \$13 per hour; P. Kenyon 2nd; [*all in favor, motion carried*].

Solid Waste: As a reminder, the large waste day and scrap metal day is Saturday, October 1st. There will be a five dollar fee per load for large waste and scrap metal. T. Redfield will work at large waste day, and H. Childress will work at the transfer station that day.

Correspondence: Letter on ATV usage from Randy Kniffen; e-mail on ATV usage from Bob & Maria Riley; notice of VLCT training on reasonable suspicion for workplace supervisors.

Board Orders: H. Childress moved to approve the board orders; C. Fenton 2nd; [*all in favor, motion carried*].

Adjourn: H. Childress moved to adjourn; T. Redfield 2nd [*all in favor, motion carried*]. Meeting adjourned 9:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Herb Childress, Select Board Clerk