

**TOWN OF LEMPSTER  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
PUBLIC HEARING**

Approved Minutes  
July 28, 2020

**PRESENT:** Chairman Philip Tirrell, Selectmen Mary Grenier, Everett Thurber and Ingrid Bjork, Administrative Assistant

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Bruce Chaplin, Stetson's, Al McNeill, Jim Richards, Barb Richards, David Richards, Carrie Richards, Richard Fairweather, Kathy Turcotte, Karl Turcotte, Synthia Liska, Mark Liska, Carol Andrews, Thomas Brennan, Gary Kostek, Larry Kostek, Lucille Kostek, Robert Dubois, Ron Pepin, Mike O'Connell, name illegible (Claremont NH), Scott Griffin, Bruce Fraser, Jack Swatt, Nicholas Cremonti, Kevin Onnela, Debra Onnela, John Piragis, Steve Zakur, Ann Astarita, Matt Leahy (Forest Society), Barry Hunter, Amanda Solomon, Erik Walker, Anthony Cianci, Ed Welch, Vicky Welch, Robert DeVits, Paula DeVits, Jenelle DeVits, Kimberly DeVits, Samuel Zakur, Keith Chadwick, Mindy Chadwick, Brian Irwin, Rep. Steven Smith, Cesco Disario, Pete Congleton, Carie Congleton, Ivan Wallace, Shannon Wallace, Joe Burnham, Warren Hurd, Joseph Moulton, Jr., Frank Earthrowl, Scott Meader, Tamanee Meader, Kevin Thorpe, Patricia O'Leary Thorpe, Wesley Ash, Wanda Ash, Carolyn Kapchensky, Sue Lichty, John Tremblay, Lori Tremblay, Kirt Wirkkala, Ron Swatt, Alojz Picco, Korrie Goodspeed, Scott Goodspeed, Beth Clark Moulton, Bob Fagga, Jim Jennison, Becky Farrand, Brenda Seiber, Gary Seiber, Walter Elhardt, John B. of Newport, NH, and Gregg Thibodeau (Acworth Conservation)

Chairman Tirrell called the Public Hearing to order at 6:40 PM. He explained that tonight's public hearing was to address a request from the Lempster Trail Blazers ATV Club to open up new sections of class V and VI roads to ATVs. Chairman Tirrell said that he is removing himself from any vote this evening because he is an active member of the Lempster Trail Blazers but will answer questions as needed. He turned over the meeting to Selectman Thurber.

Maps showing the existing and proposed trails and a list of the proposed trails were available to the public.

Selectmen Thurber asked Mr. Richards to explain the requested trails. Mr. Richards discussed the list of requested trails.

Mr. Richards was asked what relationship the ATV club and snowmobile club had and if they could share the trails. Mr. Richards said he is having discussions with the Hidden Valley Snowmobile club but the trails they have on private property required permission from the landowners. Mr. Richards said that the private landowners may not give the ATV club the same permission.

Mr. Dubois asked how many people on Long Pond Road requested opening up Long Pond Road. Mr. Richards said that one person who lived on Long Pond Road requested it to be open so land owners who lived there could access the trails. Mr. Dubois said he had a concern of people turning around in his driveway.

Greg Thibodeau of the Acworth Conservation Commission discussed his concern of ATVs going into Acworth from Keyes Hollow Road which has a section that he believes to be a wetland area. Chairman Tirrell confirmed that the section he was discussing was a class VI section and that he believed that there was grant money that could help fix the trail. David Richards confirmed the grant.

Mr. Onnela discussed his concern about not getting the first notice when he was out of town and other abutters who said they did not get a notice. He also discussed Bean Mountain Road, which he believes is his driveway and not a class VI road. Chairman Tirrell said that the Selectmen could not discuss this matter because it is in litigation.

Mr. Onnela said he wanted to make a motion to table this issue to Town meeting. Selectman Thurber said that tonight is a public hearing not a special town meeting. The Selectmen wanted to hear from the public about the new trail requests. If it was a town meeting only registered voters of Lempster could vote.

Mr. Onnela said that if he has to pay to stop the ATV club using Bean Mountain Road he will refuse letting the snowmobile club use his property.

Mr. O'Connell, Vice President of the Long Pond Association said that they took a survey of the members of the Long Pond Association with the results of the returned surveys being 101 against opening up Long Pond Road to ATVs and 6 in favor. Several property owners on Long Pond Road expressed concerns of the increased traffic on a dead end road that does not connect to any approved trail, safety and environmental concerns.

Ms. Solomon discussed her concern about Hurd Road and the problems she has now with ATVs going down the road. She said she does not want to see additional ATVs and is concerned about a change in her quality of life.

Questions from the audience of who would enforce the rules and if there were additional costs to the Town. Chairman Tirrell said that Fish and Game have jurisdiction and that the Sheriff's Department could also aid in enforcement. Mr. Richards discussed a grant the municipality could apply for that would pay for the added coverage from the Sheriff's Department.

Matt Leahy, NH Protection of Forests allows snowmobiles on their property but not ATVs. He said that he would like the Selectmen to hold on opening new trails until they have time to assess the ones that were approved at the February public hearing.

Land owners of Grandview Road, Hurd Road, Cutler Road and Mountain Road discussed their concerns also of speed and ATV use on their roads.

Selectman Grenier said the Selectmen will not make a decision tonight. They have received several emails and letters that they have not been able to read yet.

Selectman Thurber said the emails and letters will be public record. He said that he would like to take a census on who is for and who is against the opening of the proposed trails. In favor-24 Against-50.

The Selectmen were asked when they would make a decision and Selectman Thurber said he did not know at this time.

Selectman Grenier made a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing at 8:10 PM. Selectman Thurber seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ingrid Bjork  
Administrative Assistant