



Town of Winchester
1 Richmond Road Winchester, NH 03470

**Minutes of the
Selectmen Meeting**
Wednesday, July 8, 2020

Board members present: Ben Kilanski, Jack Marsh, Herbert Stephens, James Rokes Sr. and Gloria Leustek. Also, present Margaret Sharra, Dale Gray and Rick Meleski.

First order of business: Public Hearing

The Chairman opens the meeting at 7:00 pm. Selectman Kilanski reads the public hearing notice. Selectman Leustek makes a motion to open the public hearing. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0. Dean Beaman-Mt Pisgah ATV Club is requesting access to ride ATV's on town certain town roads, Old Spofford Rd, starting at the intersection of John Hill Rd to the intersection of Old Westport Rd, to Howard St, onto Elm St. ending at the parking lot at the corner of Ashuelot St & Elm St. Gaining access to these roads will bring riders into town which will in turn support our local business. The State of NH require signage and the club would post various signage on all the necessary roads. ATV's trails are closed to riders from December 15th (or 1st snowplow) to May 23rd. The State of NH offers grant funding to help with dust control-Calcium Chloride. The ATV Club would apply for these funds to help with dust control. State Law requires speed limits to be followed and doesn't allow modified machines. Allowing access to these roads would bring in visitors to town and they would spend money. Chief Tollett spoke to Fish & Game-Lt. Boudreau if the town was to allow access to the town road it would be the responsibility of the local Police Dept to enforce. Selectman Stephens asked if the PD would need to hire another officer and additional equipment for enforcement. Selectman Kilanski asked Chief Tollett have any issues with the proposal. Chief Tollett stated that no issues. It will come down to the PD having a zero tolerance and writing tickets. Selectman Marsh wanted to clarify that the ATV's would park in the overflow parking area and not go over the bridge. In a year Mr. Mikes will be moving down on the corner with Dunkin Donuts. Dean said that in the park there is 20 miles of riding. ATV's have 9-12-gal gas tank and can ride for some time. They aren't going to come to get gas but to get a drink and food. The designated area of road is only 2 miles of town road. Chief Tollett stated the more signs the better. It will help with educated and enforce the laws. Dean stated that there are grants for Police Dept to fund additional patrolling. Dale Gray-Highway stated that there will be more maintenance to the road. Selectman Kilanski asked the timeframe for the grants. Dean stated that they are due May 10th and awarded 3 weeks in June. The State will pay 60% and the Club would pay 40%. Selectman Rokes asked about doing a trail period 30-60 days? Dean said that it would be a burden and huge cost to purchase all the signage. Selectman Stephens said that either Hillsborough or Henniker are in the process of trying to reverse allowing the ATV's access to the town roads. Dean said the Park is the largest in the State of NH and is a resource to the town and we are not utilizing. Mitch Bierman-189 Old Spofford Rd read to the board a letter of his concerns and opposition. The 1st fear is the safety of the residents as well as the riders. The road is narrow, winding, steep and some place only 1 lane. Noise, dust, trash and speed are also a large concern. Insurance Liability, ATV users are not required to have insurance. Who pays for the property or personal injury if there is an accident? The homeowners that live on Old Spofford Rd. have no water/sewer services or cable pay high property taxes and yet we are going to allow people that don't live on the road or live in the state use the road and drive down our property values. 23 out of 28 homes on the road signed the petition. It's the responsibility of the board to hear what the majority of the property owners are saying and vote no on this request. Robert Gussman-566 Old Spofford Rd. stated that his attorney submitted a letter on his behave. Robert agrees with everything that Mitch Bierman said and has the

same concerns; trash, noise, dust, speeding and the safety on a road that is narrow. This is a terrible idea. The road is unsafe to ride on and will affect to property values. Lauren Reese-70 Old Spofford Rd. has all the same concerns especial with the out of stators. Do the cars driving on the road go around the ATV riders. Dean stated that the riders are trained to pull over and let the cars go by. Pam-54 Old Westport Rd. stated that several years back Howard to Old Westport Rd was designated a Scenic Route. Hinsdale & Chesterfield have areas to park and enter into the park. Since March 1st, 2/3 of the trails are closed to damage. Why do they need access if it is not being maintained. Dean said the State closed a 1.2 section due to a micro- burst that damaged trees. Hinsdale & Chesterfield trails ATV's are not allowed to park and enter. The only areas to enter are Broad Brook, Old Chesterfield, Reservoir & John Hill trails. Lindseigh Picard the club did a great job with their research and I think it is great that we are inviting people into our town and support local businesses. The concern is the infrastructure, willingness to plan on adequate staff for PD & EMT. The cost does trickle down to the town. Gary Lee-224 Old Spofford Rd said that there is currently a lot of ATV traffic now. Underage children are riding and there are unregistered vehicles on the road. Gary opposes the opening of the roads. Whitney Linnenbringer-Old Chesterfield Rd, there already is an issue with speeding on the corner of Elm St & Howard St. Can't imagine a small child crossing the road. Also, the noise pollution and spooking livestock is a concern. Dean said children age 12 and up are required by law to attend an OHRV course and receive a card. Also, children have to ride with an adult 25 years or older. The rules state that children must ride in the middle when crossing the roads. Judith Bischoff-214 Old Spofford Rd, there are a lot of ATV riders on the road now. The road is not safe and washes out. There is a safety issue. Kurt-MA resident said he rides up north and the riders like to stop in town to grab food/drinks. It brings in revenue to the towns. All the tickets that are written would be more revenue. Chief Tollett stated that all tickets written the money goes to the State not the town. Bonnie Leveille-160 Old Westport Rd said it's an invitation for disaster. The concern is the kids that play on Howard St. It will add more maintenance to the dirt road. Supports the homeowners on Old Spofford Rd. Tyson Frazier-Old Westport Rd, because of COVID-19 sales have increased for recreational vehicles. Where does the town want to see it as a whole. Let's bring the revenue into town. We have the largest park in the State, lets expand on it and add to it. It has worked in other towns, let's put Winchester on the map. Todd Paige-Club President, we will be patrolling the trails making sure riders are following the rules, educating the riders and cleaning up any trash. Lauren Reese, believes that the club will be out there watching the trails, but it is the others from out of state is the concern and I am not for this. Chief Tollett asked clarification from Dean. The parking area across from the green bridge is not for parking trailer. Dean said correct. Just for the riders to stop and walk Main St. Rick Horton-Scotland Rd understands the concerns. Maybe more planning needs to be involved. I have seen mill towns destroyed by losing industry but come back because of tourism and are thriving. The towns master plan talks about encouraging tourism. Kids without their OHRV cards can not cross a road. Not sure if it is the right plan but maybe a allow the roads open on certain weekends. Lindseigh asked if anyone thought about expanding the trails and maybe a food truck near the entrance of the park. Dean stated that the State manages the park and they review it every 7 years and we are only in 4.5year. Over the 35-40 years has the State ever considered opening any additional trails. We are trying to get it expanded but have to wait 2.5 years before the state will review the plan. Natalie Quevedo, what about compromising, keep the residents happy and still bring in new business by working on enlarging the trails in the park. Keep working on the trails 4.3miles won't put us on the map but 20 miles will put us on the map. Randy Steiner-Old Spofford Rd, does not enjoy the noise at all from the ATVs. What are the projections on how much revenue it will bring to the town. What's the liability for the town and what the cost to the taxpayers. The kids are racing up the road and has had no response from the Police Dept. If the town gives them the freedom to use the roads are you taking on the liability if someone gets hurt. None of the machine have insurance. Who's liable. Dean said that the Police could issue a ticket for unregistered vehicle on town roads. Todd Paige, the liability is the same as a car. Jerry-ATV Club has letters of support by local businesses. Tyson Frasier said he went up north riding and spent \$400 dollars in 1day. We need to try new things to help bring in the revenue. Eric -Turns Fall MA, ATVs are an expensive hobby and the riders from MA & CT will spend money in town when they ride here. Natalie Quevedo, the residents and the ATV Club should work together and come up with a plan. Leonard-Brattleboro has ridden his whole life, and these are good trails in NH. As parents raising our kids to ride legally is important. People want to walk through town and eat. Ben Stetson rides all the time and with his kids. There are risks to riding but you have to follow the rules. Wear a helmet, go slow and stay on your side of the road. Todd

Paige, the club is there to watch and to help. This will help the Main St businesses. Tina Perkins, what businesses will the riders visit. There are only 3 or 4. Will they be riding down Main St to go to Rite Aid. What businesses will this attract to be able to support the tons of people that will increase the tax base. Dean said no they will only ride from Howard to Elm to the parking on Ashuelot St. Kyle-Swanzey the residents are concerned with speeding, running stop signs and drinking. Its happening now and its not going to get worse. Natalie Quevedo, compromise with a bigger trail system and keep the residents happy.

Tyson Frasier asked Natalie are you saying to build the trails system bigger, so they don't have to come downtown. So keep the riders up at the park, don't let them downtown and not receive any revenue. Natalie Quevedo if you make the trails bigger when the riders are done, they will come down and support the businesses. Tyson Frasier said it's the chicken before the egg concept. What attracted riders to Berlin. They had the trails and now they have new stores and revenues coming in. We have the largest park in the State which could be major revenues. What do we have to do to make the trails bigger. Dean, the park is governed by laws and nothing can be done without state approvals. Until there is enough voice pushing at the next 7-year plan, nothing can be done now. Linda Paige-ATV Club, they go out of town to ride and spend a lot of money every time. We like to ride and stop to get lunch. It's important to note that ATV's are an economic driver. You look at other towns people are going for the day and spending money. This is an opportunity that Winchester needs to think about. Why not travel out of town if they could ride local. We can all work together and figure out how we want this int impact Winchester. Mitch Bierman, safety is the most important issue here. Do you really want riders coming down Old Spofford Rd a dirt road. Why not Old Chesterfield Rd. if you want to build the town go on a paved road. Selectman Marsh asked if there have been any studies done with the other towns that allow the roads open and how it affect assessment values. Dean said he sits on an advisory committee for transportation and can't speak to any study or numbers. The Department of Transportation with UNE are doing a study. They are looking at the rail trails now and what can the economic drive be for those trails. Selectman Marsh asked what if the railroad bed was used instead. When the State bought the railroad bed back, they do not allow any motorized vehicles. Dean said it has to be changes at the state level. The State recognizes that the ATV's are a huge user group and is a large revenue stream for the State. Selectman Marsh asked that the parking on Ashuelot St is full what's the backup plan, Dean said that possible the house on Elm St that the town owns. Also the Old Tanner site could be used for parking winter & summer with towns permission. Kathy Steiner-Old Spofford Rd., has lived there for 46 years and was a great place to raise children and now grandchildren. There is already a lot of traffic and down the road. People drive fast and crazy. It's not only the ATV's but cars and trucks too. Consider what kind of impact it will have if this is allowed. Robert Janti-Old Spofford Rd., there are a lot of questions that need to be answered. If there was a trail period, the out of stators will be happy and the 28 residents that live there will be outnumbered. Why not use Old Chesterfield Road? Who votes on whether is pass or not. There will need to be more cops which is more money to the town. Which then it will be taking away from the revenue. There should be something written up with more information. We need answers. Todd Paige why not stop in Winchester and not have to drive to Berlin. Robert Gusman, Old Spofford Rd. the facts are we don't know if it will bring money to the town and it is the worst road. Also, it's mostly a 1 land road. Why have a hearing and listen to everyone. Of course the ATV Club and riders want the roads open. When will a decision be made? Selectman Kilanski said the boarded has discussed when they will decide. The purpose of a hearing is to get the impute of the public and to listen to all sides. Tina Perkins asked if this should be on as a warrant article for the whole town to vote. Selectman Marsh stated that the RSA allows the board to hold a public hearing. If it doesn't pass it could go on as a petition article next year. Tina asked how many vehicles will be on the trails. Dean said it is hard to say. Maybe 12 trucks and trailers and possibly 50 riders over a weekend. Vicky-Old Spofford Rd. the road is not safe with many sharp corners. It's a disaster waiting to happen. Dean stated again that the road will be posted with speed limit signs and the PD will patrol. Signage will be posted telling riders what obstacles are ahead. Chief Tollett stated the RSA 215: a-15. The PD is a 7-person department with 57 miles of road to patrol. They will do their best to respond to every call but can be in 2 places at once. Winchester is a busy town. We will work together with the ATV Club closely.

Natalie Quevedo read a comment from online, someone stated that if the Mill was purchased it would be a great place to develop stores and restaurants for year-round tourism. Judith Bischoff, the board has a hard decision to make. Old Spofford Rd is a dangerous road and how would you fill if someone was killed.

Selectman Kilanski thanked everyone that came and spoke. There are valid points for both sides. No decision made until the board can process all the information that was given tonight. Selectman Stephens makes a motion to recess the hearing until July 22, 2020 @7pm. Selectman Leustek seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0.

Second order of business: Minutes & New Business

The board reviews the minutes for 7/1/20. Selectman Leustek makes a motion to approve the minutes. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

Intent to Excavate for map 14 lot 1-Manning Hill

Selectman Marsh makes a motion to approve the oath of office for 2 Thayer Library Trustee-
Selectman Leustek seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0.

Selectman Marsh makes a motion to approve a timber tax for map 4 lot 31-Bolton Rd. in the amount of \$538.36. Selectman Leustek seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0.

Reminder that on July 15th @ 2pm there will be a pre-construction meeting with Tata & Howard and Haluch Construction for the Richmond Rd Water Tank Project. Also, July 15th the board has a work session at 6pm to discuss the Housing Standards Ordinance. Senator Jay Kahn will be attending the Select Board meeting on July 22nd.

Selectman Kilanski made a motion to purchase 3 Ring Doorbells and 5 Chromebooks/tablet up to \$400 a piece. Selectman Leustek seconds the motion. The motion fails 2-3. Selectman Kilanski made a motion to purchase 3 Ring Doorbells. Selectman Leustek seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0. Selectman Kilanski made a motion to purchase 5 Chromebooks/tablet up to \$400 a piece. Selectman Leustek seconds the motion. The motion fails 2-3.

Selectman Kilanski asked the board to review the 2 social media policy for discussion next week.

The board reviews and approves the following financial documents:

Selectman Marsh makes a motion to approve opening an account for the Cemetery's donations for the new building. Selectman Rokes seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0.

Selectman Stephens makes a motion to approve the line item transfers for the merit raise. Selectman Rokes seconds the motion. The motion carries 4-1.

Selectman Rokes makes a motion to approve paying the TAN off in the amount of \$1,001,499.99. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0.

Selectman Rokes makes a motion to approve signing the IRS 941 & 941B. Selectman Leustek seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0.

Selectman Marsh makes a motion to approve Tata & Howards request in the amount of \$300.00 from the Water Tank Grant fund. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0.

Selectman Rokes made a few calls to find 3 used wheels for the loader. They were \$850 a piece plus shipping and there was no guarantee on the condition. Selectman Marsh said that lets look at 1 wheel and a used tire mounted to have as a spare. Selectman Rokes said he would call Pete's tire.

Third order of business Board comment:

Selectman Stephens will be doing a Junkyard inspection on Monday, July 13th with Margaret on Hildreth St.

Selectman Rokes wanted to Thank Leonard Lawrence Excavating for the great work they did out at Musterfield Park cleaning up all the tree Stumps.

Selectman Leustek said that RED Committee might possibly cancel the Dinner on the Bridge and Music in the Park is on for tomorrow night.

Karey gave the board an update on the Election meeting that Moderator-Denis Murphy held to discuss the September & November election. There was a thought of moving elections to the school for more space and for a better flow of traffic in and out of the building. The School Board will be discussing it at their next meeting. Homeland Security will be providing to all the cities/towns PPE and other items for both elections.

Fourth order of business Public comment:

Natalie Quevedo asked a question from someone online, why did Jack vote no on the purchase of the Chromebook. Selectman Marsh stated that he likes the meetings to be in-person face to face. Online comment was made not to purchase Chromebook, but Apple-iPad and they would service them at no charge to the town. Nat asked if Teams can record. Karey stated yes.

Selectman Kilanski updated the board on the Budget meeting held Tuesday night. 3-2 vote to appoint Chester Lapointe as Chair and 3-2 vote to appoint Tiffany Melanson as Vice Chair. The question was asked to the school about adding a line to their budget showing the percentage left in each line item. The Committee talked about scheduling their meetings starting in August but decided to wait until the School & Town finished their budgets. Also to attend both the School & Town meeting when they are discussing their budgets and to review School & Town year to date budgets weekly/monthly.

Lindseigh asked when the towns audit was. Karey stated that it was on scheduled but usually it is in October.

Fifth order of business: Nonpublic under RSA 91-A:3II (a)(b)(c)(d)(e)

Selectman Leustek makes a motion to enter nonpublic session under a, c & e. Selectman Marsh seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0. A roll call vote was taken, and members vote "yes" individually, and the board convenes in non-public at 9:38pm.

Sixth order of business: Adjournment

The board reconvenes in public session at 10:13pm.

Selectman Leustek makes a motion to seal the minutes under c&e. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0.

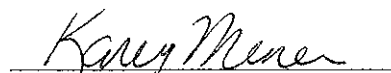
Selectman Stephens makes a motion to adjourn at 10:15pm. Selectman Rokes seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0.

Minutes respectfully submitted:

Karey Miner, Administrator

Minutes signed by:


Ben Kilanski, Chairman


Karey Miner, Administrator