

April 7, 2021

Laura Ginsburg  
Chair  
Tunbridge Planning Commission

I want to echo the gratitude of many of my Tunbridge neighbors who have participated in this lengthy discussion of the town's legal trails by the Planning Commission. This has been an intensive process that has allowed townspeople, landowners and outdoors recreational activists to be heard while learning about diverse perspectives regarding the public's use of the town's legal trails. The PC's online resource guide, meeting minutes and meeting Zoom recordings are invaluable pieces of information to digest by everyone who cares about our town.

One of the PC's online links is an extract from the town's current Draft Town Plan which I will note here:

## **F. Other Modes of Travel**

### **Non-Motorized Use**

Many residents bike or walk on town roads in Tunbridge. The rural nature of most of Tunbridge's makes bike and pedestrian travel reasonably safe. However, bike and pedestrian travel along the Route 110 is less safe due to higher traffic volume and speed and a lack of available shoulders.

Tunbridge has 2.45 miles of legal trails , all of which can be used by the public for hiking, horseback trail riding, road bike riding, mountain bike trail riding, backcountry skiing and snowshoeing. Additional recreational opportunities can be found using trails maintained by VAST.

I feel quite strongly about public access to all of our trails while recognizing the need for reciprocal, responsible stewardship by both users and adjacent landowners. Many participants in this discussion have focused on trail sustainability by limiting access during wet times of the year, signage when necessary to remind users about trail etiquette and the pending formation of a town trails committee to oversee communications, maintenance and education about current trails as well as future trails...all very encouraging!

In closing, I conducted an interesting survey among nearby town officials regarding their town's respective policies concerning their legal trails. Every one of these surveyed towns have policies nearly identical to the extract referenced above for Tunbridge's current Draft Town Plan.

Barnard, Braintree, Brookfield, Chelsea, Norwich, Pomfret, Randolph, Rochester,  
Sharon, Strafford

Bethel and Royalton do not have any designated legal trails.

Respectfully,

Todd Tyson  
Tunbridge, VT