

Tunbridge Legal Trails
Recommendations from Trails Committee and Planning Commission
9/22/21

Based on the work of the Trails Committee, Planning Commission, and agreed upon outcomes from the 9/1/21 and 9/8/21 joint meeting between those two groups and the public, and public meeting on 9/22/21, the following draft recommendations regarding legal trails are offered to the Selectboard:

- Regarding all four trails:
 - Language should be a policy and not an ordinance
 - Trails are only for recreational, non-motorized access except in the cases where legal trails intersect VAST trails for winter use
 - No event use will be allowed
 - Access may be limited based on the season; we anticipate trail closure during mud season and at other times as needed due to environmental or situation circumstances
 - Partnership with landowners and trail abutters is important but should not be the only decision point when deciding trail use and maintenance
 - Given the challenge of enforcement, trails should be reviewed at least annually to ensure that the conditions remain appropriate for use and that the policy statement remains relevant

- The four legal trails are unique and should be given individualized consideration
 - Falls Hill
 - Falls Hill trail has been recently maintained. Until appropriate signage can be installed marking the trail, this trail is only open to pedestrian access (hiking, snowshoeing, skiing).
 - Baptist Hill
 - Aside from use during the winter by VAST, this trail should be closed to other uses but not discontinued. Given likely wetlands issues, this trail needs review by the State District Wetlands Ecologist prior to any change in use.

Commented [GL1]: State has e-bike regulations in place allowing towns to distinguish these bikes from non-powered

- Crossroad
 - Given the current trail circumstance (lack of signage and maintenance has led to users leaving the trail and going onto private property), this trail is closed until maintenance can occur, paired with clear signage
 - Maintenance will require coordination with the State District Wetlands Ecologist to plan for and receive permission for the wetlands crossing at the low point of the trail.
 - Maintenance may be performed by volunteer groups once a plan and any necessary permitting is in place, to be confirmed by the Selectboard
- Orchard Road
 - Until this trail can be reviewed by the State District Wetlands Ecologist, it is open only to pedestrian use when the ground is frozen.
 - After review, a plan will be developed for use of this trail.