

Stakeholder Input – August/September 2021

- Peter Gregory, TRORC Executive Director:

TRORC, through its adopted Regional Plan, and its policies have long supported the retention of public rights-of-way, for a variety of purposes. The most important purpose is for recreational pursuits, like walking and biking among other ways.

- Email from Lori Berger and Deb Mullen

To the Trails Committee:

Deb Mullen and I have both been approached by folks pro- and anti- wheeled vehicle use, as well as by members of the committee, and would like to clarify our position vis a vis trail usage in Tunbridge, and more specifically, the Crossroad.

We have attempted to be open-minded about trail usage by cyclists, and have generally had no strong objection to community members who occasionally pop up on bicycles on the Crossroad. Our strongest objections have been to use by large-scale events and commercial ventures. We have been assured many times by those in favor of keeping trails open to bicycles that we don't need to worry about increased use by non-community members other than on dates of specific permitted events. We have harbored concerns that once these trails are used for these events, however, they will become destinations for cyclists who are working towards particular mileage goals etc. This was born out when, during the bike event (Pedal Power to the People) held 8/21, over a dozen cyclists came through the Crossroad in flagrant disregard of the signage. While this was not the intended route set by the organizers, it is not irrational to believe that this will become a regular occurrence as more cyclists descend upon the Tunbridge area due to the popularity of these events.

This occurrence has caused us to re-think our position. The fragility of the Crossroad, as well as its proximity to our properties, does not make it a good candidate for use by ANY wheeled vehicles. After last weekend It is obvious that there is a high likelihood that there will be cyclists who, after "discovering" this trail, will choose to disregard any restrictions as to permitted access, and will choose to use it whenever they wish. It is unreasonable to expect anyone to police the trails, and even if that were possible, who would pay for it? How would it be

enforced? How would people be held responsible? We therefore would like to clearly state our opposition to its use by anyone other than hikers, walkers, and cross-country skiers.

Respectfully,

Lori Berger and Deborah Mullen

- Email from Cal Heminway via Sue Salster:

August 20, 2021

Re Legal Trails:

Thank you for pointing me in the right direction.

I reviewed your draft report and found it to accurately describe my family's position re legal trails. I'm assuming that the disagreement within the Committee is over your conclusions and recommendations.

I have always thought of our democratic process to include compromise. My understanding of the process here is that free community access to private lands with or without legal trails would be subject to two conditions: Leave it as you found it and no wheeled vehicles. Apparently, this compromise just asks too much. Leaves a sour taste.

By the way, the VAST snowmobile ownership predated me. I just continued it. It's a private agreement.

Cal

- Email from Andy Rogers – VAST via Sue Salster

August 31, 2021

Tunbridge Vast Trails

Hi Susan, thanks for reaching out to me, I am very concerned about access to the Dodge farm trail, without this trail our club will need to find a reroute that could be miles of who knows what kind of work and expense, and I don't know if there's even an option for the reroute. This

corridor trail is also a main route through central Vt for all clubs and riders in VT, not just our Tunbridge club. We are very concerned about being denied access and I can't express how important it is to keep it open. It's also getting very hard to get volunteers to help with major trail work, just one more reason I am so concerned about the Dodge property being closed to us. Without this trail or an alternative, we could possibly have to shut down our whole system. Again, thanks for reaching out, I hope this can all be worked out for all parties involved.

Andy Rogers
President of Tri Town Trail Travelers
Safety Ambassador of VAST