

DRAFT

Town of Royalton, VT
ATV Ordinance Advisory Committee
6/1/2022 6:30 pm - Minutes - DRAFT
Virtual / In-person meeting
(All Zoom recording timestamps are approximate)

Committee Members: Sandy Conrad, Gidget Lyman, Tim Parker, Brad Sick, Dave Lewis, Peter Anderson, Ian Mackenzie, Bob Clavelle, Pamela Vesilind

Public: Stewart Ketcham; Mike Hogan

Meeting convened at approximately 6:31pm

Approval of Agenda: Peter requested that the ATV Survey discussion include [Cascadnac Valley Wheelers \(CVW\)](#) membership details.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Stewart Ketcham told the committee that he recently returned to South Royalton to discover that conditions on (Class 4) Pepperell Road have worsened.¹ He said he had asked a selectboard member in March for Pepperell Road to be posted to prohibit wheeled vehicles until conditions approved, and had understood that the road would be posted. He believes that it was either not posted or that the signs were moved. Stewart said that at least half the distance of the road is deeply rutted and holding water, and that conditions have “effectively destroyed” it as a bicycle road and made it difficult to use as a walking trail. Stewart asked that ATV access to Pepperell Road from Jigger Hill Road be restricted, at least during times when conditions are poor.

Stewart further commented that an Abenaki Tribe ceremonial site is located on or near Pepperell Road. He believes the Vermont Land Trust is attempting to engage the Abenaki’s involvement.

Ian responded that the “Tunbridge spur” area of interest, which includes Pepperell Road, is not the club’s top priority at this time. He stated that his club would like to work to maintain trails in the Royalton network.

Ian asked to make two additional public comments:

- 1) The CVW would like to help preserve two historic sites on the Tunbridge spur route. (20:20).
- 2) The [Central Vermont Quad Runners \(CVQR\)](#), is losing a Stockbridge trailhead due to a change of landownership. The CVQR approached the Bethel Selectboard on May 23, 2022 to seek an alternative trailhead site in Bethel. Further, the CVQR raised the possibility of an ATV route in Bethel, using Sand Hill Rd., Church St., Main St., and Peavine Blvd. (21:15).

¹ Pepperell Road is in Area of Interest #3 of the February, 2022 CVW proposal, connecting Jigger Hill Road to McIntosh Pond Road.

Ian has requested time on the agenda at the Tunbridge Selectboard June 14th meeting. He last approached the Tunbridge Selectboard on behalf of the Royalton CVW club on January 25, 2022. (*Tunbridge Selectboard Minutes, Appendix A*). Ian reported that the owner of the North Tunbridge Store is agreeable to having a trail on his property, and the club is seeking access from other area landowners. (21:30).

ATV SURVEY DISCUSSION

Survey Release: The committee turned to the matter of whether the ATV Survey had been properly released to the public. It was discussed whether the survey should have been released by the Town or by individual members, and whether the survey had been approved for publication at the May 25 meeting. Ian posted the survey to Facebook on or about May 28.

There were three recollections of the May 25 vote:

- Some members remembered a motion and subsequent unanimous vote to approve the content of the survey, with edits, *and* publication of the survey. Specifically, Gidget said she made the motion “to approve the survey with the changes that we discussed, and to post.” (22:20).
- Some members remembered the motion and vote to approve the content of the survey, with edits, but not for the use of Google Forms, because more research was needed.
- Some members believed neither the content of the survey in its current form, nor publication, had been approved.

Peter said the survey should have had more planning, and that we need to take a step back and do a clean launch. We need to get the townspeople’s opinions. (28:00).

Sandy said we need to get this information soon.

Peter said we could ask the Selectboard for an extension.

Sandy said she would not do an extension (28:30).

Gidget made a motion to “take the survey off the table due to time constraints.” (28:40). Ian seconded.

Sandy said there was a motion to “not do the survey then, to take it off the table due to time constraints.”

Post-motion discussion:

Dave said the survey is a waste of time and that we’re not getting anywhere. (28:50)

Peter said that since the selectboard refuses to take responsibility for this process, not having a survey means “we’re in a bind.” (29:00)

Bob motioned to take the survey off the table (31:15) and disagreed with Peter’s recollection of the survey planning process. He said that there has been too much speculation – about the number of ATV riders and about the number of migrating animals threatened by ATVs, and that future development in the Otto Merrill area will do far more damage than ATVs.

Bob said that the committee’s job is to present an ordinance, and “not to determine whether it’s right or wrong.” (32:30)

DRAFT

Sandy called for any other discussion. None came. Vote tally:

Yes: Bob, Tim, Ian, Dave, Gidget, Sandy

No: Brad, Peter,

Abstain: Pamela

A majority of the committee voted to not re-attempt a survey of townspeople opinions. (33:20)

Membership of Royalton Cascadnac Valley Wheelers Club:

Peter asked Ian how many people belong to the Royalton CVW club. Ian said that his most recent monthly report from VASA was fourteen (14) members. (36:00)

Ian estimates this number has increased to “approaching 25 to 30 members” (33:50), but needs to wait for the next report. CVW is a VASA club, and membership is through [the VASA web site](#).

Peter said this means the CVW members represent 1/2 to 1% of the Royalton population.

ATV ROUTES DISCUSSION

The committee resumed discussing routes that would be opened to ATVs under the ordinance.

Ian offered two maps (*Appendix B; Appendix C*) to clarify the routes proposed by CVW, with alternative routes to Barnard using Davis Road and/or Royalton Hill Road. Possible private trails are in yellow. He said he is working on private land access on the northwest end of Sewall Brook Road.

Pamela asked why these maps included village access, when she thought the agreement at the May 25 meeting had been to focus on the “Barnard spur.”

Ian said he wasn’t sure what had been agreed upon, but that the plan is a work in progress and he thought the VASA riders should be able to access the village.

Gidget said it is a work in progress, so we should leave it to the club to keep working.

Brad agreed that the club still had a lot of work to do to gain private land access, and that both the club and the committee had been given too little time by the selectboard to complete its work. (44:00). He is not advocating for an extension to the committee’s work, but thought that it was backwards to write an ordinance before the routes are established. The likely outcome will be disgruntled voters.

Sandy said that not everyone thinks that way (45:40), and that we don’t know why the selectboard chose this schedule.

Brad said that Selectman Tim Murphy had suggested at a March Selectboard meeting that this schedule might give ATV riders a couple of weeks in the fall. (45:45). Brad said he thought this rushed process wasn’t worth it for a couple of weeks.

Gidget said it was worth it to them [ATV riders]. (46:20)

Sandy said it was “probably worth it to the 185 people who wanted the ordinance.” (46:25)

Brad said if we want something that won’t be recalled, we’re doing it too quickly.

DRAFT

Bob asked whether the committee's ordinance needed to recommend certain routes or road names. (47:30)

Dave said the ordinance we're trying to write doesn't say anything about specific roads. (48:15)

Sandy said it does. (48:20)

Gidget said she thinks the ordinance could name roads if we want it to. (48:25)

Dave said we need to "write the ordinance with the rules of the road." (49:49) If the committee has time at the end, it can suggest certain roads, assuming the committee agrees on them. Even so, the selectboard is going to do what it wants to do. (49:55)

Gidget said she feels like she's heard so much feedback against it [ATVs on roads] that she knows enough about what people are looking for in the ordinance. "I've heard tons of feedback." (50:15)

Tim referred the committee to Victoria's instructions to write an ordinance.

Gidget said we should write the ordinance while Ian keeps working on landowner permission. (52:00)

Ian said he thought the committee on May 25 was pushing him to focus on the route to Barnard, (52:45), but advocated for also including access to the village from the Otto Merrill/Oxbow Road route. (55:50)

Brad asked Sandy for the June 8 agenda to include time for creating rules about timing – when roads would be opened (dates, days of the week, etc.). (57:00).

Sandy said she would add to the agenda that the committee would start writing the ordinance next week, using the [Vermont League of Cities and Town Model Ordinance](#) as a guide, with Gidget drafting. (59:00)

Royalton Connection to Barnard

Brad distributed a copy of the Barnard Selectboard meeting minutes from October 20, 2021 (*Appendix D*). The minutes do not indicate anything more than a willingness to consider a proposal about additional ATV access, saying no specific roads were discussed. (1:00:00). Brad asked Ian why we are making all of this effort to get to Barnard when Barnard hasn't agreed to connect with Royalton roads.

Brad asked Ian to clarify the nature of the agreement with Barnard, because he knows of several people living on the proposed Barnard route who were not informed, and that according to the town administrator, the selectboard has not taking it under consideration. (1:03:00).

Dave said that the [Barnard] CVQR trails will connect up with Royalton if Royalton gets a trail system to Barnard, but that Royalton has to do it first. (1:04:00)

Ian said that when he and Tim Parker, Jr. met with the Barnard Selectboard in October, they initially proposed access to the Lakota Road from East Barnard, but that the selectboard had rejected that route as having too much exposure. Ian said that they directed him to the Masterson Road - Route 12 - Rhoades Hill Road route towards Rousseau Road.

Brad asked Ian to clarify who he meant by "they."

DRAFT

Ian said he meant Rock Webster, former member Tim Johnson and Bob Edmonds.

Brad questioned why the selectboard minutes differed from this account. (1:06:00).

Dave said that this is just a concept, so there will be changes. (1:06:30).

Pamela asked why, if Barnard does not need to go through the ordinance process, the Royalton Selectboard would go through it if it is not first guaranteed that Barnard will allow the connections to Rousseau Road.

[Crosstalk and disagreement.]

Brad distributed a map with an alternative route to Barnard, up Johnson Hill Road. Reasons why Johnson Hill is preferable to Sewall Brook Road/Watusi Trail. (*Appendix E*):

- Reduces the single lane bridge crossings from 2 to 1 (no Fox Stand Bridge)
- Reduces distance of paved road travel from 2.43 to .35 miles
- Avoids traffic-heavy VT-14
- Reduces use of North Road from .6 miles to just a crossing
- A VAST trail runs from the bottom of Johnson Hill to the top. (1:11:10).

The southeast leg of Sewall Brook Road is a dead-end hill with sharp, blind turns. The proposed ATV access would increase traffic by 2000%. The class 4 section (Watusi Trail) has some highly-technical terrain that will be too difficult for inexperienced riders. Most of the trail is too narrow to accommodate the 2-way traffic necessary for this proposal.

Royalton Connection to Bethel

There was a suggestion that the committee focus on access to Bethel, referencing Ian's earlier statement about ATV road approval in Bethel. (1:01:00).

Dave said no, the approved Bethel roads are "on the Rochester side." He mentioned two former trailheads, one on the old dump road and one on Rochester Mountain. (1:01:30).

Pamela asked why the May 23 Bethel Selectboard meeting minutes did not indicate approval for any new road or trailhead access. (1:06:00)

Ian said that a motion had been made.

Pamela read from the minutes: The Bethel Selectboard voted to reauthorize permission for the club to use the roads outlined on a map kept on file at the Bethel Town Office. The CVQR sought a trailhead at a parking lot the Bethel Conservation Commission is hoping to install on Ringe Hill Road. (*Appendix F*).

Dave said there are no VASA trails in Bethel. There is a trail system, but it cannot become VASA without meeting VASA access requirements.

DRAFT

Pamela asked who on the committee – of the selectboard -- had visited the Class 3 and 4 roads under contention. (1:14:00). Ian said he had been on the northwest end of Sewall Brook, but not on the southeast end.² Tim and Peter had been to Sewall Brook.

Gidget said she did not know where to park. (1:15:30)

Pamela invited Gidget and everyone else on the committee to park their cars and trailers at her house, at any point during the weekend.

Gidget said she could not do it on Sunday. (1:16:09)

Brad reminded the committee he had invited members in past meetings, and that several members had agreed that Sewall Brook has blind curves.

Tim asked to speak as a CVW member and not as a committee member. He explained that the club acknowledges the safety issues on Sewall Brook, and has been working to avoid that road (1:19:00), including looking at alternatives routes on and around Johnson Hill and Davis Road. He said Johnson Hill would be easier, but that homeowners would object to this route. (1:23:00)

Tim said the majority of riders on these roads will be slow and respectful, and that the few irresponsible riders are usually those who are very young or from out-of-state. He said he thought the initial projections of 50 riders on a busy day was highly unlikely because Royalton doesn't have attractions.

Ian requested that the committee invite Demi Boles, the Royalton Highway Department Foreman, to the next meeting. (1:29:00)

Approval of Minutes

The committee approved the draft minutes from the May 11 and May 18 meetings, with minor edits. Due to disputes about the content of the survey discussion and vote, the committee deferred approval of the May 25 minutes.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:25 pm.

² Sewall Brook Road is a Class 3 road on the northwest end (North Road) and the southeast end (Royalton Hill Road), with a stretch of Class 4 ("Watusi Trail") in the middle. There is no regular vehicle access from the Royalton Hill end of Sewall Brook to the North Road end of Sewall Brook.

TOWN OF TUNBRIDGE SELECTBOARD MEETING

Tuesday, January 25, 2022 6:00pm, Town Offices and Via Zoom

Meeting called to order at 6:00pm.

Present: Mike McPhetres, Gary Mullen, John O'Brien, Mariah Cilley, Fern Strong, Nan Frost, Susan Salster, Liz York, Johnathan Bicknell, John Echeverria, Brenda Field, Ian MacKenzie, Seth Homes, Buck Russell, Israel Provoncha, Maureen McCullough, Betsy Gaiser, Todd Tyson, Matt Frost, Daniel "Rudi" Ruddell, Josh Benson, Jena Trombly, George White, Mitch Taylor

Road Report- Rodney Hoyt Via Mike McPhetres

Four-wheel drive went on a truck last week. Hoyt drained the oil and there were metal chips, so it was trailered to Lebanon to get worked on. Freightliner is looking for parts now. Hoyt wants Cilley to call up to Montpelier State Garage to see if they have extra trucks available for rent should we need one. They are getting the grader chained up and ready if needed for plowing.

Trumbull-Nelson came to look at the garage and told us there were structural issues that makes adding on to it not feasible. Black River Design will come to look at the garage and give their opinion.

Questions raised regarding the Transfer Station. It was closed two Saturdays in a row and will be closed again on Wednesday. Who is in charge of closing? When do we decide to get the compactor empty? Could we look into getting an overflow box and an extra container for recycling.

Discussion of Legal Trail #2- John Echeverria

Echeverria is seeking permission to enclose with a gate the Legal Trail #2. He is looking to bring cows back to the Dodge Farm and he needs to put up fence to keep the cows out of wetlands and other parts of the pasture. The legal trail will go through fences that can be opened by pedestrians. The State of Vermont is helping Echeverria come up with proposal regarding how to water the cows when they don't have access to the stream. There will be pipes run in the stream with water troughs throughout. The water pipe would be in the right-of-way of the trail. Corner Rail Fence Co., will be doing the fencing. O'Brien asks Echeverria if he is looking at different styles of fences which can be more historic and less permanent. McPhetres thinks this request sounds very reasonable. O'Brien thinks as long as this is an easy pass through for pedestrians then it would be fine.

McPhetres makes a motion to allow John Echeverria to put up gates that can be opened by pedestrians or a style that can be used by pedestrians. O'Brien seconds. All aye. So moved.

Todd Tyson asks who gives the go ahead to remove debris from a trail. McPhetres believes the landowner approves the removal of trees and debris.

Discussion of ATV Use Ordinance- Ian MacKenzie

MacKenzie and his VASA group will be on the ballot and the informational meeting in Royalton.

He wanted to meet with our Selectboard today to continue the conversation of potentially getting access and an ordinance in place to some portions of our town roads. MacKenzie and his group went over some main points regarding what the group is looking for, they shared a map looking at the roads they are looking to access and stated that they would be very interested in a trial period as well as doing what they can to make this a positive impact on the community. Mullen states that this isn't going to be something that will happen overnight and that it will take a lot of community input and discussion.

Casella Update- Mitch Taylor

Taylor states that in order to break even on our Casella fees each month we should be charging \$2.50/30gal bag or \$18/yd bulk for recycling. We are currently spending about \$1700 per month in recycling fees. If we had 700 bags per month at that price it would cover the cost. The Selectboard states that many people don't bring bags. Taylor states that it involves a lot of guesswork. O'Brien asks if any recyclables are valuable right now. Taylor states that aluminum is valuable right now but it is very complicated because you have to get it baled and hauled to a place that will pay the most in a 20 ton load. The Selectboard states that we make half our money to run the transfer station in dump tickets. Mullen is fearful that people will get upset if we start charging too much. Taylor states we should at least be charging for appliances. Taylor will send sheets of what we should be charging for all things. Taylor will look into an 8 yard container as well as an RV container to have a backup for recycling or trash overflow.

Town Meeting Date Determination

May 21st, 2022. Cilley will ask permission to do this on the fairgrounds again. McPhetres motions to move Town Meeting to May 21, 2022. O'Brien seconds. All aye. So moved.

Final Budget Discussion

The ambulance budget was \$56,740.00. The General Fund Budget is up \$0.01 which is 3% from last year and the Highway Budget is up \$0.03 which is up 3% from last year as well. The Selectboard wants to look into creating a Capital Improvement Fund for the Town Garage as well as potentially creating a Tunbridge Loan Fund for small issues and damages people face (medical, house lost to fire etc.). The total for the General Fund Budget is \$631,772.25 with \$375,557.25 being raised from taxes and the Highway Budget is \$1,013,555.13 with \$873,205.13 being raised from taxes.

McPhetres makes a motion to accept the figures for the General Fund Budget of \$631,772.25 and the Highway Budget of \$1,013,555.13. O'Brien seconds. All aye. So moved.

Second EMD- Brenda Field

The REMC is requesting an Emergency Management Deputy as well as the Emergency Management Director. Field would like to have Simon Bradford come aboard for this position. McPhetres makes a motion to appoint Simon Bradford as Emergency Management Deputy. O'Brien seconds. All aye. So moved.

Other Business:

Mullen would like Cilley to contact Efficiency Vermont or Capstone for an energy audit of the Town Hall.

Contact was made to Mike Barnaby regarding the cold temperature at the Transfer Station on Wednesday and to have him go in an extra hour to put the heaters on the hydraulics.

Warrants: Warrants were signed and approved.

Minutes from the December 14th, December 22nd, December 18th and January 11th meeting were moved for approval to the next meeting.

McPhetres motions to adjourn. O'Brien seconds. All aye. So moved. Meeting adjourned at 8:26 pm.

Gary Mullen, Chair

Mike McPhetres, Vice Chair

John O'Brien, Clerk

LEGEND

TRAILHEAD PARKING

BARNARD SPUR

VILLAGE SPUR

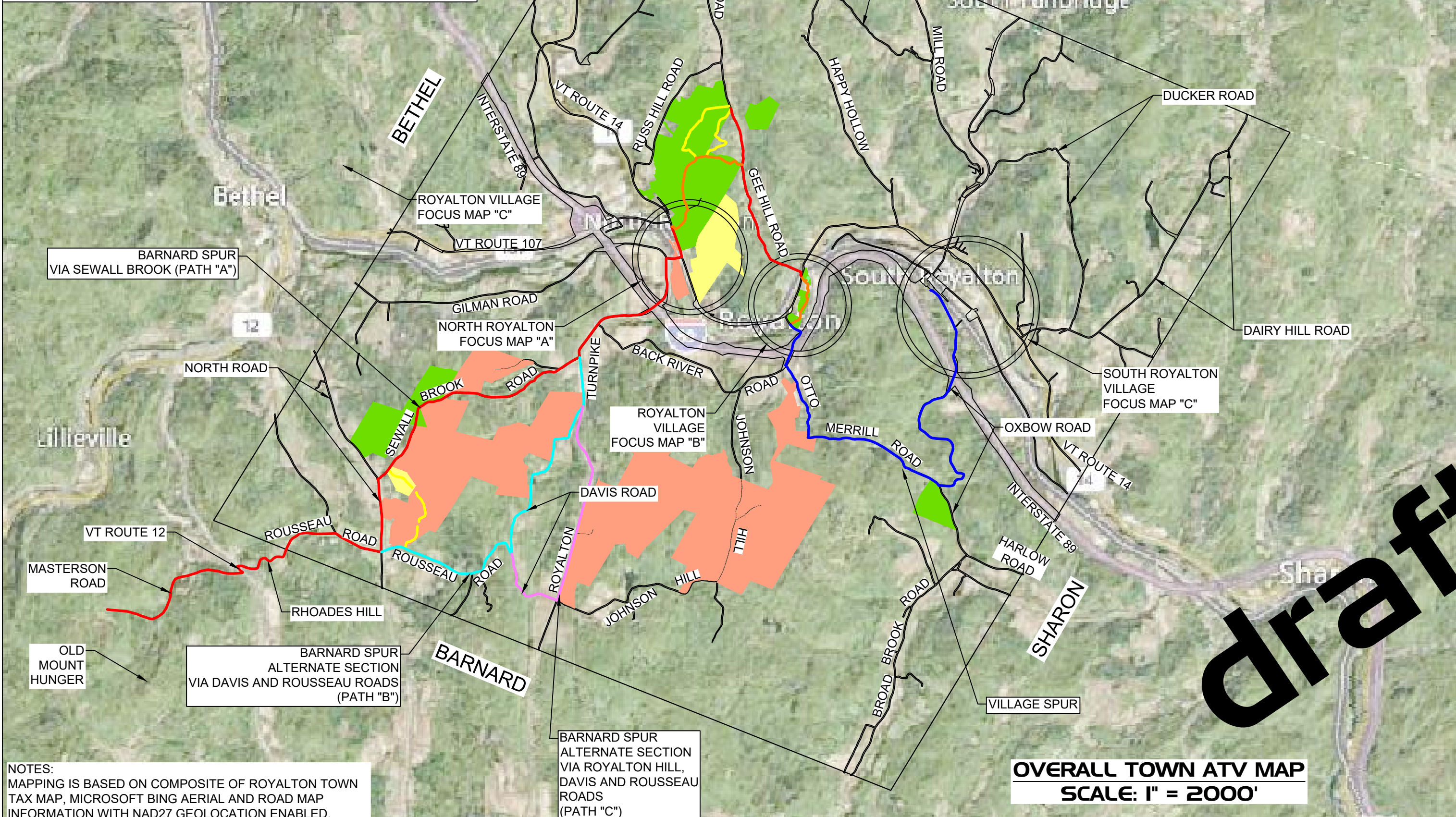
PRIVATE TRAIL (PENDING)

POSSIBLE PRIVATE TRAIL

PRIVATE LAND - VERBAL APPROVAL

PRIVATE LAND - IN INITIAL DISCUSSIONS

PRIVATE LAND - NEED TO CONTACT OWNER



NOTES:
MAPPING IS BASED ON COMPOSITE OF ROYALTON TOWN TAX MAP, MICROSOFT BING AERIAL AND ROAD MAP INFORMATION WITH NAD27 GEOLOCATION ENABLED.

BARNARD SPUR
ALTERNATE SECTION
VIA ROYALTON HILL,
DAVIS AND ROUSSEAU
ROADS
(PATH "C")

OVERALL TOWN ATV MAP
SCALE: 1" = 2000'



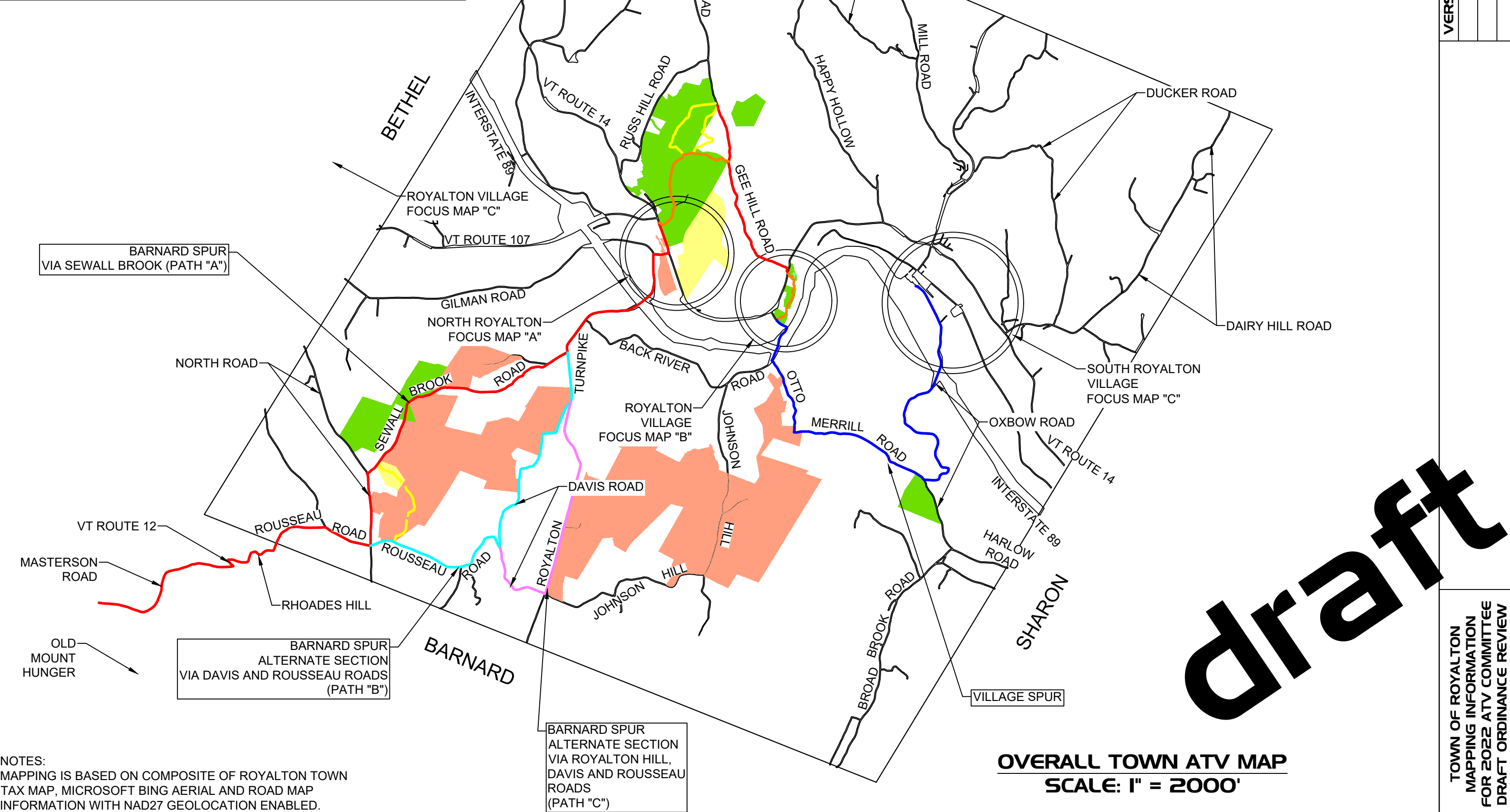
VERSION DATE: 6-1-2022

TOWN OF ROYALTON
MAPPING INFORMATION
FOR 2022 ATV COMMITTEE
DRAFT ORDINANCE REVIEW

- LEGEND**
- TRAILHEAD PARKING
 - BARNARD SPUR
 - VILLAGE SPUR
 - PRIVATE TRAIL (PENDING)
 - POSSIBLE PRIVATE TRAIL
 - PRIVATE LAND - VERBAL APPROVAL
 - PRIVATE LAND - IN INITIAL DISCUSSIONS
 - PRIVATE LAND - NEED TO CONTACT OWNER



VERSION DATE: 5-31-2022





Town of Barnard, Vermont

Chartered July 17, 1761

P.O. Box 274
Barnard, Vermont 05031
(802) 234-9211

SELECTBOARD MINUTES - DRAFT OCTOBER 20, 2021

BARNARD EMAIL SERVICE:

Please click [HERE](#) to subscribe to the official Barnard Municipal email service.

Present: Rock Webster, Bob Edmunds, Tim Johnson

Also Present: Rob Ramrath, Melissa Allen, Ian MacKenzie, Tim Parker, Rob Tracy, Geoff Martin.

1. Call to order –

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

2. Review Agenda

A. Snowmobile Club Business – Rob Tracy

Rob Tracy presented a formal VAST request to re-deck 'Jimmy's' bridge on T.H. 48.

Additionally, Rob requested to continue to groom the edge of North Rd on the Town Hall side between the Town Hall and the dam. This was done successfully last year with no issues. Both requests were approved.

B. Assessor Error & Omission Approval Request – Consider.

Via a letter, Barnard Assessor Ryan Silvestri presented a change in taxable value on parcel 03-0372 owned by All This LLC., due to the combining of two contiguous parcels per the State of Vermont Current Use Department and state statute. Ryan indicated this change in value structure caused a revision to the 2021 lodged Grand List and needs to be approved by this board. The Selectboard voted to accept the change.

C. Barnard Mtn Viewers TH Rental Waiver Request – Consider.

As a non-profit, the Town Hall Rental Waiver was approved for their annual poker run.

3. Public comments

There were no public comments.

4. Review/Approve Minutes of 10/6/2021.

The minutes were approved.

5. Royalton ATV Club Request - Ian MacKenzie – Consider.

Ian presented a conceptual plan to link the Royalton ATV trail system to the Stockbridge/Barnard trail system by gaining permissions from the Selectboard to allow ATV travel on various Class III and Class IV roads. As the plan was conceptual in nature with no specifics, there was no approval given. The Selectboard indicated they would be amenable to considering approvals in the future if Ian returns with specific requests.

6. Lakota Club Plowing Request – Consider.

Via a note from Preston Bristow, the Lakota Club requested that the town resume snow plowing all the way to the end of Lakota Road, instead of the present location of plowing termination at the Seth Dean Rd junction. The Selectboard noted that there was considerable upset in the past with damage to the Lakota Club grounds when turning around at the end of the road. The Selectboard indicated they would only be willing to approve plowing to the end of the road if a.) The Lakota Club provides Barnard an easement off the town road right-of-way to allow turn-around, and b.)

The Lakota Club provides a written document indemnifying Barnard from snowplow damage to grounds and landscaping.

7. Barnard Health Officer Appointment/Renewal – Consider.

The appointment of Tom Morse as Health Officer runs out on November 30, 2021. The Selectboard voted to reappoint Tom for another three-year term beginning December 1, 2021. The Selectboard appreciates Tom's service as Health Officer.

8. Intermunicipal Regional Energy Coordinator Weatherization Proposals – Consider.

Geoff Martin presented two proposals for weatherization upgrades to the Town Hall. Various aspects of each bid was considered including cost, availability, and approaches to the work. The Selectboard decided to award the project to Earthshare Construction. They directed Geoff to make some minor adjustments to the proposal, get a final bid and launch the project.

9. Highway Discontinuance/Reclassification Decisions 9/29/21 Hearing – Sign.

The decisions were signed. As a follow-up to the Alice's Turn Decision, the Selectboard directed that Highway Foreman Jeff Tracy and Town Administrator Rob Ramrath work together to define plow turn-around specifications with the Tickell's leading to the drafting and sign-off of an easement for snowplow turn-around purposes.

10. Smith Hill Road Maintenance Resolution – Consider.

Considering the Smith Hill Rd reclassification decision from Class 3 to Class 4, dated October 20, 2021, the Selectboard discussed the need to maintain reasonable access to Nye Cemetery and the properties along the road up to Davis Hill. In recognition of this need, the Selectboard approved the following resolution: "Between the dates of May 15th through October 1st, the Barnard Highway Department shall maintain the Class 4 section of Smith Hill Road for 1.21 miles in a westerly direction from the intersection with Alice's Turn to provide reasonable motor vehicle access. This section shall not be plowed or otherwise maintained in winter."

11. Old Business –

No old business was discussed.

12. Highway Operations – Review.

Rob Ramrath reviewed speed data from the radar speed signs on VT RT 12. The Selectboard requested that Jeff Tracy relocate the Stage Road radar sign closer to town for a better sight line as cars approach it. Rob reported that Jeff Tracy had seen a new chain across what he believed was the Class IV section of Masterson Rd with a 'Private Property' sign. The Selectboard directed Rob Ramrath to have the road surveyed to definitively establish the town's right-of-way before taking any steps regarding the chain. They also directed Rob to send a letter to abutters apprising them of the intention to survey the road.

13. Review/Approve Town & Highway Orders for 10/12/21, 10/19/21.

The Town & Highway Orders were approved.

14. Adjourn –

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 PM.

Minutes prepared by Rob Ramrath, Town Administrator. All votes unanimous unless otherwise indicated. Next regular meeting November 3, 2021 at 7:00 PM.

Selectboard:

Rock Webster, Chair

Timothy Johnson

Robert Edmunds

Selectboard Minutes for the May 23, 2022 meeting:

Present: Chris Jarvis, Dave Eddy, Lindley Brainard, Gene Kraus, Paul Vallee, Therese Kirby, James Key, Owen Daniel-McCarter, Jamie Daniel, Kevin Barry, Sarah Roberts, Ken Carter, Chuck Lyman, Cecil Washburn, Ray Blakeney, Leonard Meek, and filmed for ORCA Media by Zach Zorn.

Chris called the meeting to order at 6 pm. Lindley and Gene moved to approve the agenda as amended; the Energy Committee has rescheduled their appointment for a future meeting. So voted.

Public Comment

James Key, local bee keeper, is interested in revitalizing the Bethel's Farmer Market. It will remain on Monday's from 3 pm to 6 pm, at the Bethel Bandshell. Their first market will be held Monday, May 30. James would like to expand the farmers market, to a more community type event. There will be no charge to vendors, so James would like to raise money via sponsors and is asking the Selectboard to pay for a banner. Chris suggested we ask Spaulding Press to make the banner and have them put their logo on it, as a sponsor. Lindley and Paul moved to approve spending up to \$200 on a banner. So voted. Therese will connect Kelly Hill, Penny Griffin and James Key, so they can work on the layout and size.

Owen was here to update the Selectboard on the Pride Events going on in Bethel from Thursday, June 23 to Sunday, June 26. For information on all events, times and locations, please email BethelPRIDEFEST@gmail.com. One event that will be on going, is a Saturday sobriety meeting at noon for people that identify as LGBTQ+, who are in recovery or are seeking sobriety. That will be held on June 25th at the Arnold Block, but will have a revolving location for future meetings. Owen invited the Selectboard to attend the screening and discussion of the film "Pariah" at 2 pm at the Bethel Town Hall. Popcorn and snacks will be served.

Leonard Meek is excited about the Pride Initiative/Events that are scheduled for June and he encourages Board members to attend any and all events.

Chuck Lyman, Ken Carter and Ray Blakeney were present representing the Central Vermont Quadrunners and their annual request to use the roads outlined on the map on file at the Town Office. Ken is working on providing Bethel with a specific breakdown of each road used, and once completed will submit it to the office. Discussion of the loss of their trailhead and the possible use of a parking lot the Conservation Commission is hoping to have installed near Quimby Forest, on Rindge Road. Ken also asked how open the Selectboard was to the future possibility of using Town roads to access the village, so ATVs could get to the gas station and restaurants, helping to increase economic development. His preliminary idea is to go into Town via Sand Hill, Church Street, Main Street, then back to the trails via

Peavine. That route would make it so they never have to cross traffic. Chris suggested they put a proposal together and bring it to the Board for a future discussion.

Therese will email Ken the contact information for Ferron Griffin, regarding the parking area near Quimby Forrest. She also agreed to provide Ken information on the VOREC grant, the Town received.

Lindley and Paul moved to authorize Central Vermont Quadruplers permission to use the roads outlined on the map currently on file at the Town Office. So voted.

The Selectboard met as Water/Sewer Commissioners to discuss the proposed water/sewer budgets and rate increases. The proposed water rates are \$126.04 per E.U., \$4.40 per 1000 gallons for metered accounts, and a vacancy rate of \$100.83. The EU rate increase is 1.03% over last year, and accounts for the bond payment for the \$2.8 million water project. The State has yet to issue our final loan amendment, certifying the annual payment, but Therese has an email from the State saying we will receive additional free funding. The proposed sewer rates are \$189.39 per E.U., \$14.57 per 1,000 gallons for metered accounts, and a vacancy rate of \$151.51. The EU rate increase is 1.68% over last year, and accounts for an increase in funding the reserve fund for future needs.

Kevin Barry feels the current process for assigning EU's is unfair to multiuse buildings, and feels that Bethel should consider billing based on the amount of bedrooms, or square footage cost, or occupancy cost. Chris explained the cost of meter installation would mean everyone's rate would increase to cover the cost of the purchase and installation of meters, software to read them, and increased personnel to read the meters quarterly and do the maintenance. Discussion to look at how other Towns of similar size, with a similar quantity of connections, without meters, set their rates/bills for usage.

Gene and Lindley moved to appoint Bill Hall to the TRORC Transportation Advisory Committee for another 1-year term. So voted.

Discussion of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) money and the current list of ideas collected. Therese would like to move forward with issuing an RFP for the new sewer pumps and generator, as these could be on order for as long as six months. The existing sewer pumps are currently being rebuilt every 16 to 18 months and are beyond their useful life. As there is no reserve fund money to cover the cost of these pumps or the generator, this would be an excellent use of ARPA money and will help to stabilize water/sewer rates, so they do not have to take out another loan. The Selectboard agreed to have Therese issue an RFP and will make a final decision on the purchases once they see the results.

Therese noted Bethel was awarded a Better Roads grant of \$20,000 to put towards the culvert upsizing, berm removal and ditching a portion of Wright Road near the river. We were also awarded a paving grant for Christian Hill. That project estimate is approximately \$437,250 and the grant will cover 80%.

Therese met with a representative of the White River Partnership and they discussed removing the boat launch at Peavine Park, that is in need of repair, and refurbishing the boat launch under River Street Bridge.

Green Mountain Pipeline was in Bethel last week and lined the culvert under Pleasant Street, repaired two catch basins at the Recreation Area, repaired a catch basin on Main Street, and will be back in Town on 5/27, to pump out the remaining water and leaves from the pool.

Paul moved to approve the minutes of the 5/9/22 meeting as printed. No second, so voted.

Dave Eddy would like the Road Foreman to drive Oxbow Road, as Dave feels it is in much need of some work. Therese will let Morgan know.

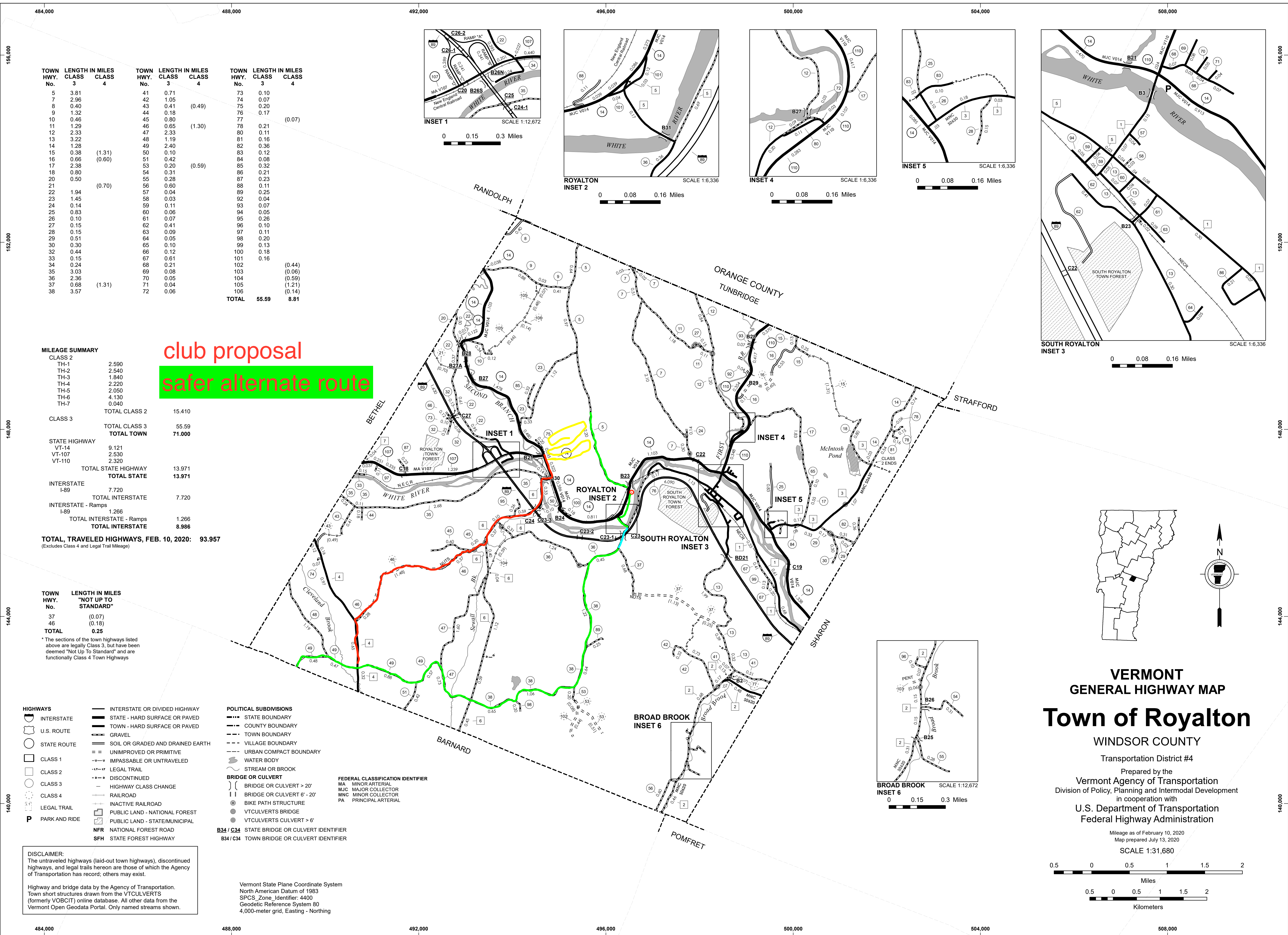
At 7:51 pm, Lindley moved to enter executive session to discuss the evaluation/goal setting of the Town Manager per 1 V.S.A. § 313 (a) (3). No second, so voted.

Paul and Lindley moved to exit executive session at 8:15 pm. So voted.

Lindley and Dave moved to adjourn at 8:16 pm. So voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Therese Kirby
Town Manager



INSET 1

INSET 2

INSET 4

INSET 5

INSET 6

ROYALTON INSET 2

SOUTH ROYALTON INSET 3

BROAD BROOK INSET 6

club proposal

safer alternate route

VERMONT

GENERAL HIGHWAY MAP

Town of Royalton

WINDSOR COUNTY

Transportation District #4

Prepared by the

Vermont Agency of Transportation

Division of Policy, Planning and Intermodal Development

in cooperation with

U.S. Department of Transportation

Federal Highway Administration

Mileage as of February 10, 2020

Map prepared July 13, 2020

SCALE 1:31,680

0.5 0 0.5 1 1.5 2

Miles

0.5 0 0.5 1 1.5 2

Kilometers