

Reasons to Oppose ATV Access to Royalton's Roads

1. Public Safety

- Manufacturers' warning: ATVs are not made for use on tar or gravel roads.
- 42 Vermont ATV riders were killed between 2013-2021, 5 per year.

2. Policing

- The ATV club's proposal for "self policing" may sound like a good idea, but it is very difficult to enforce.
- Royalton police chief and road foreman acknowledge limited road and shoulder width on many stretches of our Class III & IV roads, some with sharp curves and limited sight lines.

3. Noise: Disturbing our Peace and Quiet

- 84 decibels at fifty feet distance from source is the legal limit.
- Sound is amplified by number of ATVs in the group.
- How many out-of-state ATV riders will we get, given the club's intention to publicize widely?

4. Pollution

- In addition to the toxic exhaust fumes, there will be accidental gasoline and oil leaks and spills.

5. Erosion

- Royalton lacks an inventory documenting the erosion and condition of all Class IV roads.

6. Land Use Policies: Wildlife Corridor

- Both the Conservation Commission and the Planning Commission oppose the proposed ordinance, based on their extensive analysis of the proposal.
- The main wildlife corridor east of the Green Mtns passes through the southeast portion of Royalton, including Broad Brook, Oxbow, Otto Merrill and west to Royalton Turnpike.
- The Royalton Conservation Commission stated that allowing ATVs into the wildlife corridor "would exacerbate the fragmentation of critical forest blocks... and adversely impact wildlife connectivity across the wider region." ATV access is "expressly at odds with the Royalton Town Plan."

7. Effect on Property Values

- Property value may be reduced if residence is near a trailhead or on a busy ATV route.

8. Change of Concept

- The ATV club originally proposed an ordinance "...for the purpose of connecting recreational trail systems with neighboring towns". No such trail system exists in our neighboring towns. Instead, the club is now trying to create new trails inside Royalton. (see proposed Back River / Otto Merrill / Oxbow / Pleasant Street route).

9. Common Sense

- Keep ATVs on private land.
- Royalton taxpayers should not be asked to support a private club whose activities will be harmful to our town's people, roads, tranquility and wildlife.

Wildlife Corridor

Rte 132

Sharon

Royalton

Rte 110

Dairy Hill

Rte 107

Wood Brook Rd

Wester Hill Rd

89

North Road

Royalton Ponds

East Barnard

Pomfret

Barnard

Green
Mtns

Legend

Highway Priority Forest Blocks

Connectivity Blocks

Two Rivers-Ottawa-Quebec REGIONAL COMMISSION

TRORC

Two Rivers-Ottawa-Quebec REGIONAL COMMISSION

trorc.org

Highest Priority
Forest Blocks

Connectivity
Blocks

ATV Club Proposal

OVERALL BARNARD AND ROYALTON ATV MAP
SCALE: 1" = 2000'

LEGEND

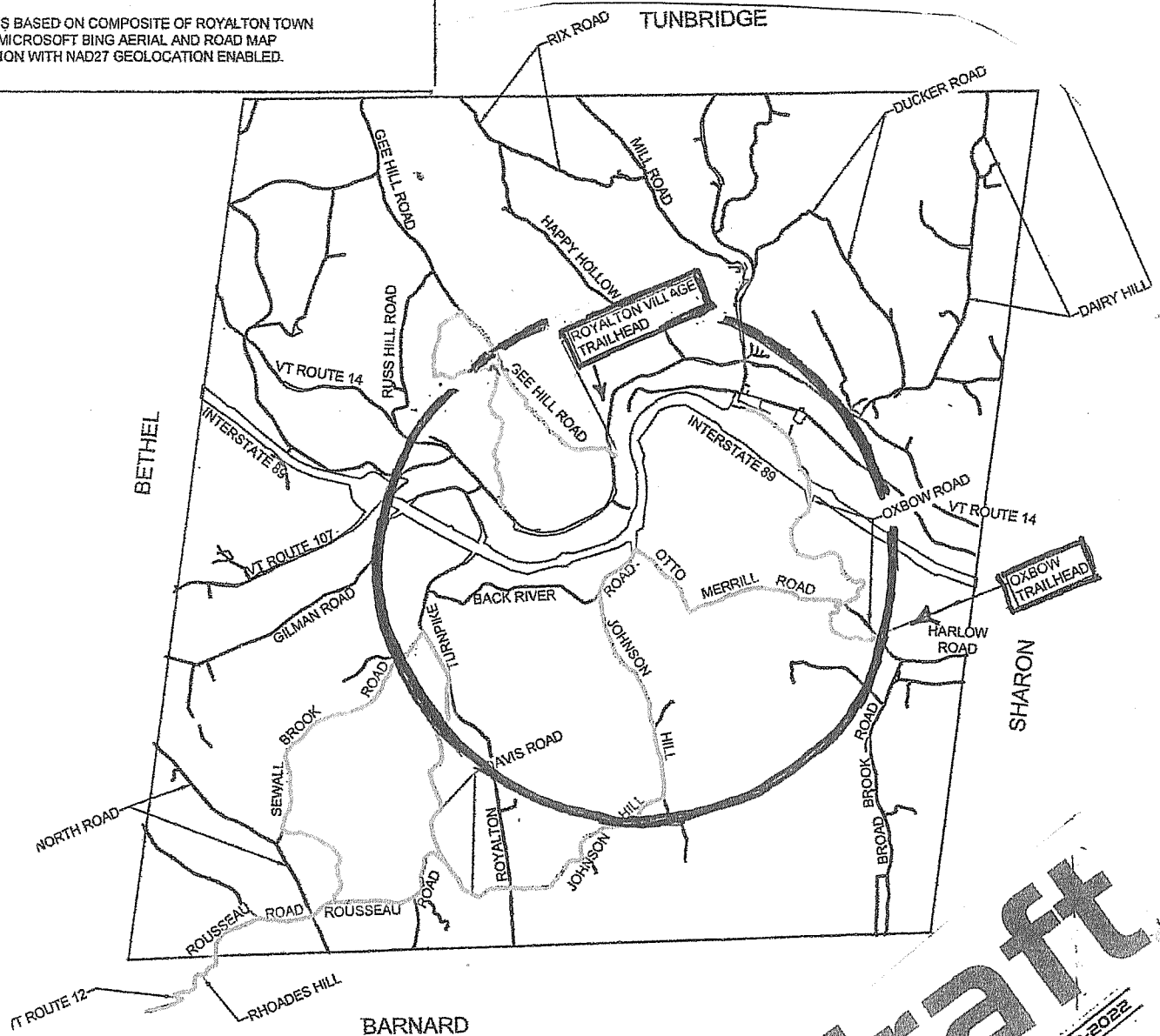
TRAILHEAD PARKING

PROPOSED ROADS

PROPOSED TRAILS/CLASS IV

NOTES:

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



ATV routes in Royalton
proposed by the club

What to do...?

If you live on any of these roads, you are on a route proposed by the ATV club:

Back River Road Royalton Turnpike

Johnson Hill Rd Gee Hill Rd Otto Merrill Rd

Oxbow Rd Pleasant St Rainbow St

Davis Rd Rosseau Rd Sewall Brook Rd

Talk to your neighbors. Let the Selectboard know what you think. Contact Victoria at:

<townadmin@royaltonvt.com>

763-7967

The next Selectboard meetings (in-person and zoomed) will be at 6:30pm, July 12 and July 26.

Please share your thoughts to inform the Selectboard, who voted 4-1 in favor of the proposal to write an ordinance.

The proposed ordinance, allowing ATVs access to Royalton roads, would have serious negative impacts on all of us in Royalton.