

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Henniker, NH 03242

To the members of the House Resources, Recreation and Development Committee-

I appreciate this opportunity, as a life-long resident of Henniker, to provide comments to the committee regarding my observations of how the state's expansion of ATV privileges has impacted quality of life in Henniker. Thank you again for your time in considering this difficult issue, and I applaud the state for taking a step back and reviewing the state's approach to regulating ATVs.

In 2014, Henniker passed an ordinance, based on a newly enacted state law, which rapidly expanded ATV riding privileges on paved and class VI roads across town. Since that time, the number of issues with ATV use has grown in Henniker, and many residents are frustrated. Some of the issues in Henniker include:

- **Noise Issues:**
 - ATV users want to get out and explore less developed regions of New Hampshire. But often, the areas that ATV users want to explore are already home to people who live there expressly because of the peace and quiet those remote locations offer.
 - ATVs operate at very high decibel ranges, often beyond what is permitted by law. Unlike snowmobiles, ATVs operate during the summer at a time when residences are likely to have their windows open, making the noise impact more pronounced.
 - After expanding ATV use in Henniker, the Selectmen were overwhelmed with complaints about noise, road, and property damage, and established an ATV committee to deal with the issues. Attachment A has an example of how ATVs have impacted the aesthetics of one neighborhood in Henniker.
- **Trail, Road, and Property Damage:**
 - Increased ATV use is straining Henniker's trails and Class VI roads. Class VI roads are a common resource that many landowners rely on to access their properties. Henniker's Class VI road network has been deteriorating rapidly in the last few years. Attachments B and C show how increased ATV use has strained Henniker's roads and trails. Without significant improvement to the Class VI access roads, some property owners would not be able to access their properties for enjoyment or timber harvesting.
 - Property damage associated with ATV use has become common in town – ranging from mud and ruts to larger acts of home vandalism and property destruction.

For the above reasons, I urge the committee to **support House Bills HB630, HB660 and HB683** to provide protection to property owners and non-motorized road users.

I firmly believe that the vast majority of ATV users are respectful of other people and their property rights. However ATV users have been granted a substantial expansion of privileges over the last few years. It is time for the State of New Hampshire to start providing protections to property owners who are adversely impacted by this expansion of ATV use.

Thank you for your consideration on this issue.

Sincerely-

██████████

Henniker, NH



ATTACHMENT A

Liberty Hill Road folks target OHRV

By **MICHAEL PON**
The Villager

Tara Kessler of Liberty Hill Road in Henniker approached the selectmen on Tuesday to ask that the dirt portion of Liberty Hill Road be cut from the list of roads OHRV riders may legally access. Kessler was speaking for a number of the residents on the road, a few of whom also voiced concerns about the OHRV traffic on the road.

She acknowledged there wasn't much use of the dirt road portion of the road a few years back in 2014, but that now the 17 houses on that portion of road must put up with as much as 37 OHRV one day, and over 100 another day, many passing by in caravans making a great deal of noise.

"The noise impacts working outside, dinner parties, talking on the phone," said Kessler. "I understand we want more ATV use in this community, but I would like the board to consider removing the dirt portion of Liberty Hill Road."

LIBERTY HILL ROAD
continued on page 3



NHvillagernewspaper.com **FREE**
Villager
Serving the Contoocook Valley

August 18, 2017 VOLUME 22, NUMBER 33

Liberty Hill Road from page 1

Billy Goss, a town resident who is an ATV Club Member, agreed with Kessler about taking Liberty Hill Road off the list of accessible roads.

"The noise, the traffic, the speed has been ridiculous," said Liz Sweeney, another resident of the stretch of road. "One day there was a bunch of underage punks mouthing off at me, a home owner, saying I was ruining their ride. Why a residential road is used for connecting trails, I don't know. It's highly dangerous, there are children."

Sweeney suggested the trail connection be made in the trails going through the woods rather than on her stretch of road.

Resident Leon Parker also complained about the noise and illegal activity, UTVs traveling after dark, which is not allowed.

"We have sent photos in to the police department of violators," said Jim Morse, the president of the ATV Club and chairman of the OHRV Committee. "We've asked the police and Fish & Game to monitor the hot spots, but it is manpower."

Morse also pointed out that local businesses are getting business from OHRV drivers. Although Kessler pointed out that there are no businesses on the section of road she wants to

see closed to OHRVs.

Selectman Ben Fortner moved to schedule a public hearing for a first reading of a policy change to close down the dirt portion of Liberty Hill Road, but he did not get a second to his motion, so it died. The rest of the selectmen opted to send Kessler to the next meeting of the OHRV Committee to voice her opinion with them. It appears the selectmen would like a recommendation from the Committee about her request. It is an advisory committee.

The meeting with the OHRV Committee will take place on Sept. 18 at 5 p.m.

Also discussed was the possibility of connecting the Country Spirit Restaurant with the trail system. Only a short presentation was made in regards to the proposal, which is one that involves a State bridge, land owned by Henniker Crushed Stone and the Country Spirit. Selectman Kris Blombeck acknowledged that it would take a longish process to work through the proposal.

Fortner cautioned that connecting the trails system to a restaurant where alcohol is served should be considered "deeply" before being acted upon. However there are other businesses on the trail system that sell alcohol.

ATTACHMENT B – HENNIKER ROAD and TRAIL CONDITIONS

Date

November 4, 2018

Description

Chase Road (Class VI)
between Butter Road
and Quaker Street,
Henniker NH



ATTACHMENT B – HENNIKER ROAD and TRAIL CONDITIONS

Date

November 4, 2018

Description

Chase Road (Class VI)
between Butter Road
and Quaker Street,
Henniker NH

White stick is 4 feet long



ATTACHMENT B – HENNIKER ROAD and TRAIL CONDITIONS

Date

November 4, 2018

Description

Chase Road (Class VI)
between Butter Road
and Quaker Street,
Henniker NH



ATTACHMENT B – HENNIKER ROAD and TRAIL CONDITIONS

Date

November 4, 2018

Description

Temple Road (Class V)
intersection with Chase
Brook Trail, Henniker NH



ATTACHMENT B – HENNIKER ROAD and TRAIL CONDITIONS

Date

November 4, 2018

Description

Mink Hills Road Trail Connector through NHDOT Property, Henniker NH. Authorized in 2017 by HB 237 without permit by NHDOT.



ATTACHMENT B – HENNIKER ROAD and TRAIL CONDITIONS

<p>Date October 31, 2016</p> <p>Description Intersection of Route 114 and Mink Hills Road Trail Connector through NHDOT Property, Henniker NH. This area has been filled since this photograph to prevent further erosion of Route 114 pavement.</p>	
<p>Date October 29, 2016</p> <p>Description Intersection of Route 114 and Snowmobile trail used heavily by OHRVs, Henniker NH.</p>	

Attachment C

Henniker Trail Conditions

2014 2017



Trail Conditions 2014



2017



Trail Conditions 2014



2017

