



Town of Warner, New Hampshire  
Mink Hills Recreation Study Committee  
Thursday, June 16, 2022

MINUTES -Draft  
IN-PERSON MEETING  
Warner Town Hall, 7:00 pm

Attending: Christine Frost, Craig Tufts, Andy Duncan, David Minton, Rebecca Courser, Sarah Allen, Gerald Courser and Nancy Martin. For the public Arlon Chaffee.

April and May minutes were reviewed. Suggested May edits: Under Next Steps “Improve drainage to **expand** uses”; and “Windsor Ward **might not** know about it”.

**Motion:** To accept minutes with edits- Nancy- motioned; Rebecca seconded; Motion Approved

Discussion: To look for grants that support improving Class VI roads.

**Motion:** Nancy motioned; Rebecca seconded; Motion Approved.

Craig discussed revised maps. The map with road conditions used GPS. Map 2 is marked as steep and wet. Both now have a legend. Conditions shown are not surprising. The degree of wetness is an important distinction. Depending on futures uses, some roads will need little improvement while others may require a lot of improvement. No loops appear on the map of Class VI roads.

David commented that the “Conditions” map is hard to read. Overlays might help.. Page, Horne, and Collins are all fair to poor. Could we use color gradations to clarify steep and wet conditions. Conditions are important to determine which activities roads can support. Definitions for good, fair and poor conditions should be on the legend. Also seasonal conditions will change.. Data collected in the Fall likely to show seasonal limitations.

Rebecca put up pictures she took of Loud Lane and Hoyt Rd. to the Henniker town line. Loud Lane needs improved drainage. Wet area may be a vernal pool or could just be wet. It is walkable and bikeable for expert riders. There is a cellar hole formerly the old “Poor Farm.”

Badger Lane has bad tire rutting and is still posted for mud season. This road is “fair” near whee Reeses have logged. Logging company built a by-pass on the owners land.

Andy wants to use signage for seasonal road closures to improve communications with users. Mud season signs should come down.

Hoyt Lane is fair to the Hoyt School House. There is a stone culvert then a muddy section then farther south a “mud hole” labeled “fair” There is a a sign indicating wash out, also “fair.” Sanborn cellar hole is filled with trash. Bret Psichos’ property with driveway is posted. There is a failed stone culvert and waterfall is passed the Hoyt School House within one mile of town line.

Hoyt Lane is mostly ATV trail. Lots of invasive multi-flora. 100 feet of road is wet approaching town line. There is a confined puddle that is not easily drained. Junction of the ATV trail at Class V Colleague Pond Rd. with a sign. ATVs are allowed on Class V roads in Henniker.

Andy suggests Next Step should be to begin writing the report with some recommendations.

Goal: To get collected data laid out in workable form. No decisions have been made about good or bad roads for wildlife. Heat map overlay as in *Trails for Wildlife and People*. Put a color coded road map on top of Wildlife Action Plan (WAP) Stacking maps creates co-occurrence.

Christines’ Recommendations: She read from 2021 Minutes, Goals and Objectives- already done.

Obj. 2 Offer Analysis

Obj. 3 Define Needs and Opportunities

Obj. 4 Increase Public Awareness

Obj. 5 Develop and Recommend a plan of “allowed” uses. We haven’t been doing this.

Sarah did a synopsis of *A Hard Road to Travel*. (See attachment) It defines the differences between trails and roads. A Class A trail can be reversed to Class VI by a vote at Town Meeting.

Possible Recommendations:

- Convert Badger Lane from Class VI road to Class A trail.
- Collaborate with ATV club to maintain Hoyt Rd.
- Connect Henniker and Warner for biking. There is no loop.

Long term consideration of all other vehicles that cause damage. Bear Pond is gated . Limitation 50” wheel radius. Does Warner want any ATV activity in the Minks? 2011 Master Plan recommends a “greenway and multi-use trail system.

Class VI- there is no obligation to maintain Class VI roads. A Class VI road can be declared an emergency lane. Grants are more likely to support maintenance. The public

can perform maintenance on a Class VI road with BOS permission. Class A trails limits users and reduces damage.

Pro's and Con's of making Class A trails on Cunningham Pond Rd and Badger Lane.

Cunningham Pond Rd.- Landowners- Rebecca will research this.

Badger Lane -Only 1 abutting landowner, supportive of Class A trail as a test case. (See attachment-*Hard Road* synopsis)

Comments:

The Matrix-

- make major use categories
- develop maps for each recreational use
- develop recommendations based on "What can the road support?"

How does the Town get the community on board? Signage and hearings in the Fall

Invite landowner feedback at a listening session before release of the plan

Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> meeting- invite landowners and recreational community (ATV's, snowmobilers, historical society, bikers etc.)

Develop language for post card invitation- Rebecca and Nancy

Map updates- Craig

Maps for each different use

Begin to develop report-Sarah

Next meeting- July 14<sup>th</sup> ?

**Motion: To adjourn-Nancy; seconded-Craig; Motion approved**