

Selectboard members present: Mathew Norris, Peter Marsh, Susan Jefferies (Chair)

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. Residents of several Starksboro roads were in attendance. Sheriff Don Keeler also attended the meeting.

Susan Jefferies read the petition signed by many residents of Ireland and Conway Roads requesting that the use of ATVs be permitted for agricultural or work-related purposes on Ireland and Conway Roads. She also read the scope of authority towns in Vermont have to regulate ATV use. Towns can restrict the time ATVs can be used, their speed and what roads are open. Towns cannot restrict the type of use, such as recreational, agricultural, or residential use only.

Sheriff Keeler reviewed his department's policy regarding ATV enforcement, noting that ATVs could not safely be pursued off road, and that the Sheriff's Department understood that ATVs are frequently used during mud season for sugaring and to navigate muddy roads.

There were several comments from attendees, including:

- It would be useful to find a way for individuals to use ATVs on their own road.
- Many people ride ATVs responsibly, and the "bad apples" ruin it for everyone.
- Opening the roads for ATV traffic could result in Starksboro becoming a destination for ATV riders
- The Sheriff's Department doesn't intend to issue tickets for people using ATVs for farm use or during mud season.
- Most people were opposed to allowing ATV traffic, other than residents for specific purposes.
- David Cunningham started the petition, and he noted that he received a ticket for riding his ATV when he was using it to get to a job. The ticket was issued by Fish and Wildlife. He does not have a car, and relies on the ATV for local transportation.
- Sheriff Keeler recommended that his department, the state police and representatives from Fish and Wildlife may be able to work together to come up with an enforcement policy.

Suggestions include:

- Install "No ATVs" signs on Town roads.
- Require large ID numbers on all VT ATVs.
- Change VT law so local riders can use roads by permit.
- Call complaints into the Sheriff's Dept. "Rat out your neighbors."
- Suggest Game Warden use discretion when issuing tickets.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Jefferies