

Town of Moretown Development Review Board
79 School Street, Moretown, Vermont 05660

Minutes and Decision for Hearing Held January 25, 2018

No. 17-42: Application of Mad River Ridge Runners to Construct Bridge for Snowmobile Trail

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 PM. Present for the Board were Erick Titrud, David Russo, Paula Woods and John Riley. The Mad River Ridgerunners' Snowmobile Club was represented by Tom Clark (Trailmaster) and Rich Butler. The snowmobile trail is on land owned by Harwood Union Unified School District. Its Director of Facilities, Ray Daigle was present. Abutting landowners Gerald and Wilma Maynard (150 Rt. 100B) and Bonnie and Mark Morse (804 Vt. Rt. 100) attended, as well as Zoning Administrator, John Weir.

Tom Clark reviewed the site plan submitted in the support of the Application. The Snowmobile Club has had a recurrent problem with washouts where the existing trail crosses a stream. The Club consulted with Gunner McCain of McCain Consulting who recommended the trail be re-routed to cross the stream at a different location more feasible for installation of a crossing bridge. The result of the project is the trail will be re-routed to the West, and clearing will be necessary for approximately 300 to 350 feet of new trail.

The trail at issue is some distance from the High School. Perhaps a mile. It is part of a well maintained trail and the Harwood cross country teams run on the trail in the fall, and the Nordic ski team utilizes it in the winter. It is also used as a walking path by nearby residents.

Jaron Borg, River Management Engineer with Vermont DEC was consulted and reviewed the project. In support of the application was an email statement of Mr. Borg that the stream size was insufficient that a stream alteration permit was required. Mr. Daigle stated the project had the approval of Harwood Unified School District. The trail has been on school property many years and there has always been a good working relationship between the school and Snowmobile Club. Mr. Clark submitted the landowner permission form from Harwood granting permission for the trail on school property.

Some of the email communications submitted as part of the application recommended there be a bridge agreement between Harwood and the Snowmobile Club. Such an agreement might address things like ownership of the bridge and what would happen if the trail was discontinued. Although it may be a worthwhile to address such matters

between the snowmobile club and the landowner the Board concluded whether one was in place was not relevant to its consideration of the application.

David Russo moved to close the evidence. Erick seconded and the Motion was approved. Dave then made a motion to approve the application as presented. Seconded by Erick. All approved. John Riley explained the Board would not issue a separate decision and that the minutes of the meeting would constitute the decision of the Board. The matter concluded at approximately 7:15 PM.

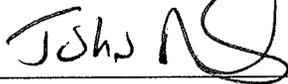
Other Business

After a brief recess John Weir provided a letter dated December 18, 2017 from attorneys for Waterbury Holdings. Waterbury Holdings application for an addition to a residence was denied by the Board in a decision which issued in late November 2017. John Weir reported that although the letter appeared to be addressed correctly, he had not initially received it, and only obtained it when contacted by Attorney Nordle inquiring if there would be a response. The letter indicated Moretown Holdings wished to withdraw its application and requested that the prior decision of the DRB be deemed void.

Mr. Weir advised that Attorney Nordle indicated that not having heard a response Moretown Holdings had filed an appeal of the DRB decision with the Vermont Environmental Court. After a brief discussion the Board took no action with respect to the letter. The meeting adjourned at 7:45.

Respectfully Submitted,

Moretown Development Review Board



John Riley, Acting Clerk