

**Village of Tannersville Village Board
Tuesday, September 30, 2003**

A Public Hearing was held on Tuesday, September 30th, 2003 at 7:00 pm in the Village Hall.

Present: Glenn Weyant, Mayor
Edward Legg, Trustee
Robin Castle, Acting Clerk

Also Present: *Those in favor of snowmobile use on the Bike Path:*

Ronald Netzley and Paul Costa of Taweri Taque Trailblazers, Dan Breck, Barbara Lynch, Craig Bates, Mary Sue Timpson, Harry J. Poladian Jr., Penny Martelli, Roger Armstrong, Erik Leach, Ryan Leach, Peter Figiel, Jeanine Figiel, James Figiel, Sherry Bertrand, Clifford Bertrand, Amber France, Julia France, Chris Figiel, David Groff, Charlotte Meigs, Jerry Meigs, Erica Groff, Mark Amodio, Tami Amodio, Joseph Goodwin, Stephanie Goodwin, Nicole Jozic, Dan Jozic, Chris Backlund, Keith Griffin, Jerrald Meighs, Tim Legg, Larui Tilp, David Kornell, Rory France, Gary Cutler, Edwin Abrahamsen, Courtney Brower, Colleen Brower, Danny Legg, Darek Legg, Kimberly Thompson, Taylor Thompson, CJ Thompson, Catherine Legg, Kim Vanucci, Mr. And Mrs. Richard Norarevian, Corey Benjamin, Chad Benjamin, Angelina Benjamin, Randy Groff.

Those opposed to snowmobile use on the Bike Path: Bob Macari, Athena Billias, George Billias, Matina Billias, Tom Wilson, Carole Sayle, Vitus Stablia.

Reporters: Fred Johnsen of the Daily Freeman, and Jim Planck of the Catskill Daily Mail

The Mayor opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

He then introduced himself and Trustee Legg to those in attendance of the meeting.

The Mayor stated that the Board will take comments in reference to changing the 99-1 local law that was passed prohibiting the use of motorized vehicles on the Bike path.

He then turned the meeting over to Trustee Legg.

Trustee Legg gave a brief history of the Bike Path and stated that when the grant was originally made, part of the stipulations was that there was a moratorium on the use of motorized vehicles on the Bike Path for 5 years. The 5 years have since passed. He then gave a brief history on the snowmobiling in the area and the values it brought to the community.

The 99-1 law is an un-enforced law and it is a burden on the police department to have a law like that. The amendment to this law would be to prohibit all motorized vehicles except snowmobiles.

Trustee Legg then turned the meeting back to the Mayor.

The floor was then opened to questions and comments from the residents. No decisions would be made by the board tonight, and all opinions were welcome.

Tom Wilson asked if the Village was prohibiting cross-country skiing and snow shoeing on the Bike Path. The Mayor replied no it was going to be used for both of those parties as well as snowmobilers.

Trustee Legg added that this would be a multi-use facility.

George Billias, a 55 year resident and cross country skier, stated that this law was never enforced and should have been enforced a long time ago. He said that the snowmobilers want to take the bike path away from cross-country skiers. Snowmobilers have no business being there. They create lumps and bumps in the trail making it difficult for us to ski there. He said that snowmobiles are also noisy and pollute. They should have different areas.

Cliff Bertrand, a 10-year resident. The bike path is used more by snowmobiles in the winter and is the heart line for the club. It connects Hunter and Haines Falls. It will make more business, and improve the economy better. It is foolish to stop them from using the bike path. The club does a lot of good and they are even trying to get a groomer to smooth out the bumps. It's a growing sport.

Matina Billias stated that the noise pollution and smell gets worse and worse.

Tim Legg stated in reference to George Billias's opinion that snowmobiles can't go anywhere, they have to go on trails.

The Mayor interrupted that this was a level sounding meeting and that people shouldn't get emotional. Opinions can be voiced freely.

Tim Legg continued stating that the bike path isn't being taken away from the cross-county skiers.

The Mayor stated that the Village owns path. Not anyone in particular.

Paul Costa from Taweri Taque Trailblazers snowmobile club stated that everyone has to be included in the decision and not one group can be excluded. There is always one person who ruins everything for the whole group. There are funds available to make this work and possibly to get a groomer. Everyone can use this trail system.

George Billias reinforced his statement that snowmobiles and skiers don't mix.

Bob Macari was very angry and said that there is no control and there needs to be enforcement of this law.

The Mayor stated that people need to control their emotions and only one person can speak at a time.

Carole Sayle is a 20 year resident and stated that there are 2.3 miles of the trail and didn't see what this little bit of trail could do for these snowmobilers that can go anywhere. The law needs to be enforced. Snowmobiles are too noisy. Concern for the watershed as well. What happens if there's an accident? Where is the gasoline going to go?

Mrs. Billias stated that in the summer people can walk on the bike path and it would be ok with no worries and is afraid that motorbikes will come on it as well.

Bob Macari said that there is no control over any motorized vehicles. By creating this law they are letting anyone to come and do what they want.

The Mayor and Trustee Legg stood up and stated that if we can't conduct this meeting in a reasonable manner then we won't have it or listen to anybody's opinions. This was the last time he was going to tell people to stop interrupting others.

Charlotte Meigs stated that the 2.3 miles is all that we have. It's wrong to take that away from us. Every kid had to take a safety course. Kids don't have anywhere to go but in Tannersville.

Dan Jozic, a business owner, land owner, and resident wanted to know if we can get together and get this bike path going.

Cathy Legg stated that last year they received a \$21,698 grant to fix the trail and get a groomer and have instructors.

Jerry Meigs stated that a majority here has to support the change. If there were more people wanted to oppose this law and prohibit the snowmobiles, then more people would have showed up.

Mrs. Billias reinstated her thought on the smelling of the gas and noise on the bike path in the winter time.

Ed Abrahamsen asked if it would be fair to take away the privilege to use the bike path from hundreds of snowmobilers just for 3 or 4 cross-country skiers?

Trustee Legg then read a letter from Rosemary Hyer. Some points: Snowmobiles, hikers, and skiers have always in her memory used the bike path with now problem. It would be a disservice to the community if the bike path was restricted in any way for its use.

Athena Billias then stated that there should be some time enforcement for the use of snowmobiles on the bike path.

Roger Armstrong stated that snowmobiling is a great family sport. We should police ourselves. We can't let one or two people that are doing wrong, ruin it for everybody.

Carole Sayle said that before the bike path was cleared behind their house there was no noise and now there is more traffic than ever on it.

Cathy Legg stated that the Kaaterskill Snowmobile Club has purchased cattle gates to block the properties. She said that she wants it to be safe and fun for everyone.

Mark and Tami Amodio stated that we should share the trail, possibly regulate speed and the timing of use.

Charlotte Meigs stated that she doesn't want to see the kids riding on the roads.

Jenne Figiel, treasurer of the Catskill Snowmobile Association, stated that it's difficult to organize a trail system. But any trails would have to be 12 feet wide to groom. Wants to have the trails clearly marked and policed, possible time spans and a controlled identification system. If we regulate the use of this trail it sounds like the DEC all over again if we cant use the path.

Bob Macari suggested that there are large letters and numbers to identify the user and report them if they are misusing the path or doing something wrong. There needs to be a central authority.

Cliff Bertrand stated that they are trying to get the trails organized.

Chris Backland, a junior at HTC stated that all they want to do is ride and have fun, and that they don't deface anyone's property.

Danny Legg stated that they just want to have fun and that the numbers are big on their sleds.

Carole Sayle wanted to know how many kids have been riding since 1999.

Jerry Meigs wanted to know if she would rather see kids being occupied by riding snowmobiles or just sitting around doing drugs.

Mark Amodio said that we have to find a way to share the trail. We need to find out who the trouble makers are and stop punishing the group.

Paul Costa said that the chances of a whole group riding together are slim to none.

James Ronetski stated that this is the same problem in Ulster County, but snowmobilers and cross-country skiers coexist in Vermont very well. The key is enforcement and grooming the trail.

Jerry Meigs Stated that snowmobilers get about 60 days a year to ride and its not right to take that away from them.

Mrs. Norarevian asked why cant those in the snowmobile club act as their own enforcement.


Jerry Meigs then suggested that the Village should appoint a constable.

Gary Cutler said that there is the same problem in Queens and as in Hunter.

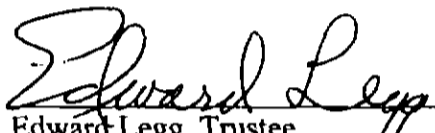
Carole Sayle said that we should provide a systematic plan prior to changing the laws.

Richard Armstrong stated that the youth have no place to go, they need to have memories, responsibility and respect. We need to take all of the negatives and make them positives.

Trustee Legg made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The Mayor seconded. All in Favor, motion carried



Glenn Weyant, Mayor



Edward Legg, Trustee