

TOWN OF PHELPS, VILAS COUNTY, WI

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Special Town Board ATV Workshop

September 29, 2011

Supervisor Snook called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm on Wednesday, September 29, 2011. Also in attendance were Supervisors Waier, Brand, McCaslin, Kimmerling and Clerk/Treasurer Hiller; Committee members: Rollie Alger, Dan Swiecichowski, Debbie Vold, Bill Spence, Lorin Johnson and 16 citizens .

The agenda was posted at the First National Bank-Phelps Branch, Phelps Town Hall and Phelps Convenience Center and emailed to the Vilas County News-Review.

The purpose of this meeting is to hold a special workshop for board and committee members to discuss the proposed ATV Survey Results, Comments, Map and Ordinance.

Chairman Snook explained the survey results which were of out of 540 surveys, there were 309 yes, 219 no and 12 undecided, which is approximately 25% of total property owners. A list of comments, the yes and no votes by roads, and a map of the routes with those marked in red that were no votes were presented to the board and committee members.

Lorin Johnson mentioned that West Shore Road results were 14 against, 3 for. The people impacted the most are the ones that live on the route. It was mentioned that the ATV Club should have developed trails, and then use roads to connect the trail. Supervisor Waier said that he cannot see why everyone can't share the roads.

Supervisor McCaslin was wondering if a letter is sent to the County Board and ask for a written opinion - if the County will accept it or not. It was mentioned that maybe we can send them the draft of the ordinance and the map. Supervisor Kimmerling says that the Forestry letter stated that an ordinance needed to be passed by the Town Board.

It was mentioned that the current route does not even get atv's to the gas station. Spence said you can petition the state for in town use of a state highway. Colin said that DOT says absolutely not. You can cross the state highway. Judy Witta asked how the board felt and have they had a vote. No the board did not take a vote on this matter, yet.

Pete Moline said that the routes lead to a series of dead ends and he feels that the survey was askew. He mentioned that his resort on Sugar Maple is one of the only resorts in the Northwoods catering specifically to the silent-sports people. He has 3,000 people coming up every year which also uses other businesses in the area. He asked what the criteria for petitioning to remove a road were. It was mentioned that West shore road had a petition back in 2004 and cannot be found.

Discussion on the trails going into Michigan. Crystal Lake Road is where the trail begins in Michigan which goes to Land O'Lakes and then they use the railroad right of way up to Watersmeet.

Discussion was led on changing the route. It was mentioned that Phelps is landmarked because of a lot of federal land. The committee wanted to stay off as much county road as possible. Chairman Snook mentioned that maybe we need to compromise by starting first with CTH A. Dan Swiecichowski said that the majority of the surveys want atv's and should not limit to CTH A.

Supervisor Waier mentioned that we could use Kellogg Road to Sugar Maple and that would not go past Afterglow, but would get to Thunder Bay and Hillside Resorts.

Debbie Vold said that we need to tweak the ordinance. Supervisor McCaslin suggested making it a one year trial basis. The committee felt that one year was too short of time and said that it could be changed to two years.

The petition section of the ordinance was discussed. It should be mentioned in the ordinance that the petition would need board approval.

Dale Mayo, Vilas County Forestry Department Forestry Technician/Snowmobile Trail Coordinator was asked by the Board if the Town needs to pass an ordinance first. It was his opinion that you should come back to forestry with a plan/ordinance – showing them exactly what the Town is looking for. By the Town adopting an ordinance, it shows us where your routes are. The County Forestry Department wants to make sure that the Town is behind this and therefore is requesting an ordinance. Their decision will be based on the routes.

The Committee decided that it is necessary to add verbiage to reword the ordinance such as “If turned down by the County, the ordinance would be null and void”.

Supervisor Waier said how many were in favor of using Kellogg Road to Sugar Maple by way of going up CTH E to Kellogg Road. All board members and committee members voted yes except for Swiecichowski and Spence.

It was then decided to go with the ordinance changing the following:

- using Kellogg Road to Sugar Maple by way of going up CTH E to Kellogg Road
- changing to a two year plan instead of three
- if County comes back saying they don't like using CTH E to Kellogg Road, we would use Sugar Maple Road (needing to keep Sugar Maple Open)
- Put in ordinance that a petition needs board approval
- Remove Section X of ordinance, and
- Mention in ordinance that if the county turns down the use of CTH A and CTH E, the ordinance would be null and void.

A roll call vote was taken on these changes as follows: Yes votes: Chairman Snook, Supervisor Waier, McCaslin, Brand, and Kimmerling; Committee Members Debbie Vold, Rollie Alger, Bill Spence, Dan Swiecichowski and Lorin Johnson, Unanimous. The ordinance will be voted on at the next regular Town Board Meeting on October 10, 2011, and if passed the ordinance and map will be sent to the Vilas County Forestry Department.

A motion was made by Supervisor Waier to adjourn. Supervisor Kimmerling seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Marjorie Hiller, Clerk/Treasurer