



Parks Regional Manager
Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation
5 Perry Street, Suite 20
Barre, Vermont 05461
(802) 476-0181
FAX (802) 476-0129
E-mail: susan.bulmer@state.vt.us

September 9, 2015

Town of Hyde Park Select Board
P.O. Box 98
Hyde Park, VT 05655

Re: Hyde Park Road Committee, Final Report and Recommendations, August 31, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

The Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation (DFPR), Barre District Office received an email from Ron Rodjenski on Sept. 1, 2015 indicating that the final Road Report was posted on the town's website. With little time to review the document prior to your Sept. 10, 2015 Select Board meeting, the DFPR has these comments:

Page 5. 3.c. Diggins Road

From the Town of Hyde Park Road Committee, March 9, 2015 meeting minutes:

"The state park's long-term management plan includes a goal to reclassify the current Class 4 section of Diggins Road to a trail but only the section within the State Park."

This statement is correct and one that the DFPR continues to support and advocate for. What was not recorded in the minutes was testimony that the current conservation easement co-held by The Vermont Nature Conservancy and the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board prohibits general public vehicular use on state park land. The Diggins Road extends into and ends on state land towards Schofield Pond. By reclassifying the section of Diggins Road on state land to a trail, the DFPR would be able to minimize the amount of vehicles entering state land off of the Diggins Road. Access to state land would be maintained, but the illegal use of vehicles would be minimized. This section of road would continue to be maintained by the DFPR for logging access to the property.

We request that the Select Board consider the reclassification of the section of the Diggins Road on state land from Class 4 to trail status.

Page 5. 3.i. Green River Dam Road

The report states that we prefer that the Green River Dam Road not be plowed in the winter time. This is inaccurate. At the meeting that I attended on March 9, 2015, this option was briefly discussed as one of the many options. Since it was presented at the meeting, there was no opportunity for a full vetting and review by DFPR. I never stated that this was our preference, but agreed that by not plowing it would help to reduce vandalism. We have had more break-ins at our contact station over the last few years.

If plowing is discontinued, winter public access for ice fishing, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing would be eliminated. The amount of winter use is not collected or documented as we do not have staff on payroll at this time to collect this information. We request that winter plowing is continued.

From the Town of Hyde Park Road Committee, March 9, 2015 meeting minutes:

“Greg Paus asked if Susan felt that one option could be to limit winter maintenance on Green River Dam Road and Susan agreed since the facility is closed and they are experiencing winter vandalism because of the year-round access. Mike wondered if Morrisville Water and Light could plow the road since they are the only ones that need access to the dam for weekly inspections. Dave agreed that there appeared to be little public interest or benefit in maintaining the Green River Dam Road in the winter and Susan agreed. Mike reported that the town highway grades the Green River Dam Road about 5 to 6 times per year.”

The DFPR is also against the reclassification of this road from Class 3 to Class 4. Over 12,000 visitors travel this road from early May to early November (park season is Memorial Day to Columbus Day) to use the public boat launch at Green River Reservoir State Park. The current level of maintenance by the town has been acceptable to the DPFR and park visitors. Changing the maintenance level of this road would make for a lot of very unhappy park visitors as the road would become difficult to travel.

I would be happy to clarify any comments that were in the minutes, or to discuss the status of these two roads further with the Select Board. Thank you for your consideration of these additional comments.

Sincerely,

Susan K. Bulmer

Susan K. Bulmer
Northeast Parks Regional Manager

C: Mike Fraysier, State Lands Director
Craig Whipple, State Parks Director
Steve Sinclair, State Forestry Director
Ginger Anderson, Barre District Forestry Manager
Diana Frederick, State Lands Stewardship Forester
Sally Laughlin, President, Friends of Green River Reservoir
Milford Cushman, Vice President, Friends of Green River Reservoir