

#	Date of Submission	Submission
1 & 7 same person	1/13/2024	Question: I think it should be clarified that the ATV study group may very well NOT decide in favor of allowing ATVs on town roads. The orientation here seems to be that you will indeed make a proposal in FAVOR of ATV use in some form, but I don't believe that is the case. You have an equal number of committee members pro and con. What if you cannot come to a conclusion and reach a stalemate? Is there a possibility that you may actually decide against ATV use on our roads and then craft a 'policy' against ATV use as other towns have done?
2	1/15/2024	Question: I have 2 concerns that I would like to make you aware of. I live on Pond Road in Fletcher. 1) I have routinely viewed ATV drivers racing each other on the flat stretch of road between the intersection of North Rd and Pond Rd and the intersection of Pond Road and Taylor Rd. These actions make it dangerous for walkers and bicycles. 2) Many times during the school year, I have observed increased ATV traffic within 30 minutes of the school bus leaving children off. These are children who appear to be younger than 16. How will a age limit be enforced?
3	1/16/2024	Question: I am worried this impacts farmers and private landowners. I also am concerned for my livestock Comments: ATVs are loud and can spook horses and other livestock. Especially if they're used to being driven/moved between pastures via ATV. I'm worried for my livestock. I also have a farm access road/trail I rather not have people use but use it frequently myself. I also would like to enjoy some peace and quiet. People won't adhere to these rules. Some kid without a helmet will get hurt, someone will hit a car and not have insurance, people will flee the law and its sparse coverage, people will be doing this at ALL hours, and people will be operating under the influence.
4	1/16/2024	Question: Has any analysis been done by other towns on the increase in cost to maintain dirt roads (per mile) after allowing ATV access for recreational use? What is the cost in comparison to the revenue they receive? Comments: I personally see no harm in allowing ATV use for agriculture use. My issue is that our road gets hammered by reckless ATV users on a regular basis. On many occasions a particular group waits until the road crew has freshly graded the road so there is loose gravel so they can do donuts up and down the road or ride wheelies from one end to the other. This destroys our road and it extremely unsafe given the blind hill. These individuals are known offenders to VSP and Fish & Game and if the roads are opened up for recreational ATV my concern is that it will be a free for all with all of their friends bringing their ATVs and side by sides to town. Since Fletcher does not have a trail system for recreational use, I personally do not think it is necessary or see a cost/benefit justification to allow the recreational use of our roadways. Again, I would like to reiterate that my opposition is strictly for recreational use and that I am for agriculture use.
5	1/16/2024	Hello! Thank you for your incredibly well organized statement of work related to the ATV committee! As a town resident, one piece that I do not fully understand is what is permitted today. I didn't see that as a starting point (possibly implied), but I do not fully understand what is allowed today (i.e. are there agricultural exceptions for instance?) As a side note, the petition is helpful that the separate workgroup set up, but unless it is reciprocated for those in support, it tips the scales perhaps unfairly for the select board. Thanks again for all your time and work on this matter.
6	1/17/2024	Question: How was the study group formed? Comments: I've had a few encounters through the years w ATVs on the roads and they have not been safe. That's with ATVs not being "allowed". Allowing them will only bring more unsafe encounters, no one enforced not allowing them so why do we think there will be any enforcement of any regulations.
7	1/30/2024	I don't remember if I asked this question already, but I would like to know what the committee is going to do if they cannot come to a decision about allowing ATVs to ride on Fletcher public roads. Will the issue be tabled, perhaps to be discussed another day, and leave 'no ordinance' on the books? Or, if it is decided that ATVs should NOT be permitted to ride on Fletcher public roads, will the committee draft an ordinance that specifically prohibits ATV riding on our roads? Many towns have their own ordinance despite ATV use being prohibited on public roads by the state of Vermont. Some towns that allow ATV riding have set out specific routes and roads that can be used. I think Fletcher residents are entitled to know the possible end result of your committee findings, one way or another.

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1/31/2024

Hi

I've lived on Mayotte Road for over 25 years. There has been a slow but steady increase in ATV use on (and around) Mayotte Road in my time here. Originally it was just folks working on the various sugarbushes (Mayotte and Gillian). These folks have always driven at reasonable speeds. They drive like they understand that ATVs can be a little frisky on the road. They are using a tool to get their jobs done. I am very much in favor of them having access to town roads to get to where they need to be.

In the last 10 years ATVs on Mayotte have become a recreation toy for bored teenagers. They drive fast and they love to do 360's (which can be a little dismaying during mud season as your car tries to navigate the various ruts). I worry about them because I've seen them on Fairfield Road going very fast (passing me in my truck), two on an ATV with no helmets, one standing up while going faster than me. I think about all the incredibly stupid things I did and survived when I was young and just pray these youngsters are safe. But they are obviously not licensed or obeying any relevant laws. If they were just riding up and down Mayotte Road I'd still worry but not as much. These are good kids, there's not really a lot to do out here, they are out having fun together. They could be getting in a lot more trouble so ATVs are a bargain really. (Most of these kids have now graduated to loud trucks.... So Mayotte Road ATV traffic may start declining soon!)

But not I get to my real complaint about ATVs - the VAST trail - 36N in particular. There's about 500 feet of VAST trail that crosses my property. It used to be a lovely 3 season trail with shade loving grasses and flowers. There were small vernal pools for frogs and salamanders. Birds and butterflies all over. Now it is just mud and ruts. I started putting up barricades across the trail at either edge of my property which helped but this past year I was undergoing cancer treatment and couldn't get down there at the end of the VAST season. The ATV riders completed the destruction they'd been working on for years. It is just mud. Deep ruts and mud. And it is not (just) the kids riding on 36N. It's "responsible" adults. The VAST guys came out to try to work on the trail this Fall and it was impassible. We haven't had enough snow for them to try to groom it but a couple riders tried it last week and found it very slow and rough going. It is slow and dangerous to walk on it as well these days.

It is not legal for ATVs to be on the VAST trail. It is not legal for them to tear up private property. I have absolutely no recourse. Even if I caught them on my trail cam no one will care. And no one is going to come help this spring when I try to level it by hand and reseed it with a special shady mix.

But folks want to open up the roads in Fletcher so more folks can have fun destroying other people's property.

No. Just no. Please No. We already have plenty of ATVs even though they aren't legal. We sure don't need to invite more to the party that's already going on.

I invite all the pro ATV people to bring shovels and rakes to 36N this spring. They can spend a week with me moving mud and fighting mosquitoes and then we can sit down and talk about allowing ATVs to come trash Fletcher.

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2/5/2024

Question: How is this going to benefit the residents?

Where will the money come from to repair the additional damage from increased road usage?

How much sound pollution will come from the ATVs?

Will the town begin maintaining class IV roads?

How will any rules be enforced?

Who will enforce them?

Why do ATVs need to use our roads when there is the VASA trails not far away?

Comments: I am struggling to understand why our slice of paradise needs to allow ATVs on our roads. Speaking to two individuals whose roads have been open to ATV usage makes me even more worrisome. Sound pollution and increased road damage was already at top of mind, but what I did not expect was their comments around trash left along the road. They both routinely pick up items while out for walks that were left behind by riders. They also commented on the recklessness of some riders. None of this sounds like something I want to have outside my front door. And since I live on Pond Rd I am certain we will be a major throughway for ATVs.

Let them ride the local VASA trails. It's what they were designed for.

10	2/5/2024	Question: If the select board allows this proposal to move forward knowing that ATV'S are designed solely for off road uses, what would be the liabilities of the town if an uninsured ATV rider injures or causes death to an uninsured person using the town road?
11	2/5/2024	Question: Seeing that there are no ATV trails in Fletcher, would the Town have to reclassify its roads if an ordinance is drafted for ATV usage, from a town road to a town road/ATV trail? Quote from Vasa trail program policy "a section of a town road that has been opened by the select boards for ATV use ,as a trail connection will be considered a Vasa trail".
12	2/5/2024	Question: I have concerns about the proposal to allow ATV usage on town roads. I live on Pond Rd and have concerns that Pond Rd, Wright Rd, and North Rd would become popular loops to use for ATV recreation since those are the only roads that make a loop within town borders. The noise pollution would be significant. The inability to enforce any rules that would be another significant concern I have. Comments: Please do not allow Fletcher roads to become an ATV recreation area, it would have an overall negative impact on the residents and our peaceful quality of life here.
13	2/7/2024	Question: How is the speed going to be controlled. I live in school road and the go way too fast!!
14	2/7/2024	Question: Seeing that Kinsley road at this time is a dead end and doesn't connect to any Fletcher roads, would the usage of ATV'S only be allowed for Kinsley road residence? If so how would that be enforced?
15	2/8/2024	Question: What are the proposed ATV hours of operation on town road
16	2/8/2024	Question: Will a town road that has no link to a trail, has no outlet, and requires illegal travel on another town's road to access it be exempt from ATV usage?
17	2/8/2024	In regards to the Study Group's (Committee) as it performs research on its way to proposing an ATV policy for the town. 1). Vermont Statute currently says that all ATV operators must also be a member of VASA and pay for a TAD tag. In order to join VASA, one must also become a member of an ATV group. How will an ATV proposal prevent ATV riders from other towns and states from legally riding on Fletcher public roads? What is the town lawyer's opinion on this? 2). Do Vermont Statutes on All-Terrain Vehicles still apply if Fletcher allows ATVs on the roads? 3). What is VLCT's opinion of ATV use on Fletcher town roads and the impact that it might have on the town's liability insurance? 4). What is town lawyer's opinion of ATV use on Fletcher town roads and the impact that it might have on the town's liability? 5). What will allowing ATVs on the roads cost Fletcher tax payers? Who will pay for additional road maintenance? Will additional road surveying need to be done to accommodate ATVs? How much will it cost to provide

appropriate signage?  
Thanks for your work on this important issue. More to come.

18 2/12/2024 Question: Which Fletcher roads will be considered open to ATV'S?

19 2/13/2024 Question: Could someone provide an explanation as to why the group opposed to the ATV ordinance have a website that is full of false statements. Such as, that the town would have to hire law enforcement to monitor the roads at taxpayer expense, and the expensive signs that would need to be posted on the roads, also at taxpayer expense. These statements are misleading, and are not accurate. It appears to be a deliberate fear factor attempt to sway a vote.  
Can the committee address these to the citizens of Fletcher prior to a vote.  
  
Comments: ATV use on public roads has proven to be successful in other towns and the city of Newport. Some people will be careless, just like any motor vehicle. That's inevitable. Opening the roads to the citizens of Fletcher will legalize what is already happening and encourage residents to get out and enjoy our town more. A no vote is not going to magically make people stop driving on the roads with their atv's or side by sides. At the very least, give the idea a one year trial and see if all these concerns of "out of towners" coming to Fletcher are legitimate concerns.

20 2/13/2024 Question: How many towns in Vermont that allows ATV use on public roads,are for residence only policy?  
Fletcher residence using Fletcher roads to use approved roads in Bakersfield to get to approved VASA trails for all, how would the town restrict Bakersfield residence from using our roads?  
  
Comments: Residence only proposal is misleading town residence as its not possible to enforce.  
The pro ATV'S clubs-residences, should be honest on what the real consequences will be.