



Town of South Thomaston, Maine
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Selectboard:
John Spear
Jeff Northgraves
Sue Snow

Selectboard Public Hearing/Workshop Minutes
Date: December 11, 2023, 6:00 PM at the Municipal Building
Items Are Often Taken Out of Order to Accommodate Schedules

Rev 0

Note: A listing as present does not denote attendance for the entire meeting.

South Thomaston Selectboard Present: John Spear, Sue Snow
Others Present: Terri-Lynn Baines, Sally Merchant, Catherine Lerne, Sondra Wallace, Leslie Spear

I. Call to Order

Spear called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Spear led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Adjustments to Agenda

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

IV. Public Hearing

a. Discussion on ATVs on Town Properties

Spear pointed out the properties formerly of Smith and Cline and the Town property on the map on the TV screen. Spear showed approximately where the road/trail is and pointed out the places that have heavy damage from ATVs. Some of the ruts are three feet deep. Pictures of some of the damage was shown on the TV screen. Repairs to the road/trail could be expensive.

There are three main entryways to the properties, off the Grierson Road, from Route 131 and the Stump Dump Road. People riding ATVs were out there today, using the Stump Dump Road for access.

Letters regarding tonight's public hearing/informational meeting were sent out to all registered ATV owners of South Thomaston, St. George and Owls Head. The hope was to have ATV owners that use the trails come to the meetings with their input on restricting ATVs from the original town property.

Spear asked if there were any comments from the public attending the meeting. The comments included, once there are restrictions there will be feed back, restrictions need teeth, do we as a town want to put similar restrictions on the original town property, should the properties be joined legally, how to differentiate between a good user and a bad user?

There was a discussion on the three entrances used to gain access to the properties and the environmental impact of silt running off where the road is damaged into the stream and then into the cove.

Briefly discussed was the piece of property owned by Nicholas Bourque.

Currently the restriction on ATVs is only on the Smith property. It would be easier to enforce the restriction if ATVs are banned completely on all properties. This would require putting an article on a Town Meeting Warrant and allowing the Town to vote on whether ATVs should be banned on all of the properties, not just the Smith property.

- IV. **Discuss Personnel Issue** (Possible Executive Session Pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A §405(6)(C))
Snow moved and Spear seconded a motion to table until tomorrow night.

Motion passed 3-0.

- V. **Workshop**
a. **Discussion on an Employee Evaluation Process**
Snow moved and Spear seconded a motion to table to a date to be determined.

Motion passed 3-0.

- VI. **Adjourn**
Snow moved and Spear seconded a motion to adjourn at 6:33 pm.

Motion passed 3-0.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85369062418?pwd=R3lZV08wZ0xac1psRmxBYk9NMkZXQT09>

Meeting ID: 853 6906 2418

Passcode: 496261

Selectboard Approved January 16, 2024