

TO: ✓ Neil Fulton, Town Manager, Town of Norwich, PO Box 376, Norwich, Vermont 05055
Nancy Kramer, Asst. to the Town Manager, PO Box 376, Norwich, Vt. 05055
Linda Cook, Chair, Selectboard Town of Norwich, PO Box 828, Norwich, Vt. 05055
Andy Hodgdon, Director of Public Works, Dept. of Public Works, 26 New Boston
Road, Norwich, Vt. 05055

From: David and Patricia Derrick, PO Box 395, Wilder, Vt. 05088
802-356-0658 derrickpt@aol.com



Subject: Closing of Illsley Rd./Griggs Mtn. Rd.

We are enclosing a copy of e-mail sent to all but the Asst. to the Town Manager on November 6, 2015 which refers back to email sent on October 26th. We haven't had any response to our request to be heard regarding this matter.

This has been a class 4 road in Norwich once used by the farmers and others since back in the 1800's. Our family recalls using this road since the 1950's in addition to being friends with the Illsley's while they were alive and still farmed there.

We and many others who have used this road for years are very upset that one person moving into the area can close it without a hearing. We want to be heard and ask that this matter be placed on the agenda of the selectboard at the earliest possible time. Will you please advise us of the date and time of the meeting.

Thank you for your attention and reply to our request.

David A. Derrick
Patricia Derrick
David and Patricia Derrick

From: derrickpt <derrickpt@aol.com>

To: lcook2825 <lcook2825@gmail.com>

Subject: Fwd: closing of class 4 road by abutting property owner w/o hearing

Date: Thu, Nov 12, 2015 9:42 am

Hi Linda: I am forwarding e-mail sent on Nov. 6th regarding the removal of bridge and gating of town class 4 road known as Illsley Rd/Griggs Mtn. Rd. which has been closed by abutting property owner without the proper application to the selectboard and without neighboring property owners and others being heard.

Thank you for your attention to this. We are very concerned that he will next take over the entrance to Burton Woods Road which we rely on to get to our property.

David and Pat Derrick
PO Box 395, Wilder, Vt. 05088
802-356-0658

-----Original Message-----

From: derrickpt <derrickpt@aol.com>

To: manager <manager@norwich.vt.us>; AHodgdon <AHodgdon@norwich.vt.us>; selectboard <selectboard@norwich.vt.us>

Sent: Fri, Nov 6, 2015 7:02 pm

Subject: closing of class 4 road by abutting property owner w/o hearing

Dear Folks:

This is a followup to e-mail to you dated 10/26/15 to express our objection to the closing of town class 4 road known as Illsley Road/Griggs Mtn. Rd. by Brett Vuyovich. He has removed the bridge and put up a gate near his property so that his neighbors and others cannot use it.

The Derrick family has owned property in this area for 4 generations and are concerned that his action will set a precedent for others who do not follow the policy and rules set out by the town as well as State statutes 19 VSA section 1105 which state that "no class 4 road may be closed or access thereon impeded by a gate or other obstruction except upon approval of the Selectboard.

I would bring to your attention the town's policy on class four roads drafted in the spring of 2001. The general policy statement stresses the importance of these roads to provide access to property owners, access for emergency vehicles..and it further states that these roads provide a living link to our rural past and one of the few remaining connections to our rapidly vanishing history.

The road in question has a cemetery on it which is visited by individuals. This area is used by hunters, hikers, snowmobilers and folks just researching the history of the area which was once a thriving community. They are looking for the cemetery, the location of the school house, saw mill or just enjoy the area.

The forest fire in the Tiger Town area this past summer is a reminder that the class 4 roads should be open to 4 wheel type vehicles in order to bring in fire fighters, their equipment and water. Some of our neighboring property owners assisted in just that.

We understand that the town will not provide maintenance on class 4 roads with the exception that it may maintain bridges and culverts for water control. It appears that whatever Brett is doing over the brook will hinder the flow when there is heavy runoff. It concerns us further that his tampering with the existing bridge will cause the brook to damage the Burton Woods road which we rely on to get to our property for our firewood. He is not allowing any type of vehicle which many of us rely on because of age, new joints or other physical limitations.

We have had "friendly" conversation with Brett advising him that he is mistaken in his understanding this this is not a class 4 road but it hasn't changed his mind about replacing the bridge. As a matter of fact today we noted that he appears to have placed large rocks and the concrete forms he removed from the bridge in the road. I doesn't look like the area can be even accessed on foot.

We are concerned that folks who have relied on this road for years will confront him as deer season approaches and snowmobile season is not far away. Our hope is that the town will clarify the use of this road with him and assure that the necessary repairs will be done to allow for the use by all of us again. There are many who are concerned and upset.

Thank you for your consideration to this matter.

David and Patricia Derrick
PO Box 395, Wilder, Vt. 05088
802-356-0658
derrickpt@aol.com