

Town of Stratford OHRV Road Use Policy

Whereas the State provides little or no enforcement of OHRV laws and regulations, and the Town of Stratford is currently without a police department; and

Whereas there are considerable local traditions, several locally owned businesses with OHRV oriented business plans, and a continuing level of popularity for OHRVs as well as a still active local OHRV club; and

Whereas the current OHRV trail system is somewhat facilitated by using certain sections of roads within the Town as trail connectors; and

Whereas the ATV Safety Institute, the Specialty Vehicle Institute of America (SVIA), the Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association (ROHVA), and the manufacturers themselves all advise avoiding OHRV use on public roads; and

Whereas noise, lights, and especially dust, all associated with OHRV use, have well documented impacts on the health and well-being of people as well as on wildlife; and

Whereas OHRV use of Town roads incurs additional cost to the Town for road maintenance and provision of signage, and therefore causes increased property owner tax burden;

The Town of Stratford Select Board establishes the following regulations for use of OHRVs on designated road sections within the Town.

When on public roads, operators will:

- Remain in single file.
- Stay on the far right of the traveled way.
- Stay off the shoulder and out of the drainage ditches.
- Hold to a 20 mph maximum speed limit except 10 mph in designated sensitive areas.
- Yield ROW to all other road users.
- Come to a full stop before entering a road and enter in a way that does not unavoidably disturb the shoulder or road surface.
- Never unavoidably spin tires.

In addition:

- All OHRVs on Town roads must adhere to the noise and equipment modification laws and regulations and all State of NH OHRV laws and regulations as may be amended.
- OHRVs are permitted on designated Town roads between 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.

If any one or more of these regulations are observed to be repeatedly violated by one or more operators of OHRVs, then the Select Board shall further restrict OHRV access to the roads within the Town.

If these regulations conflict with any Town ordinance or regulation, or State law or regulation, the most restrictive requirement shall apply.

Until such time as alternative trail options are clearly established, or the Select Board otherwise deems granting permission inadvisable, the following designated road sections within the Town of Stratford may be used for OHRV use. The Board shall reevaluate, and, if it deems appropriate, amend, this policy at least annually with regard to need, safety, health, cost, Town resilience, Town viability, or other considerations.

- Christie Rd between junction with Mag Trail and westerly end of Perham Rd.
- McMann Rd between junction with Charlie's Trail and junction with Bryan's Rd.
- Potato Hill Rd from junction with Bog Rd to Bog Brook
- Percy Rd between junction with Blueberry Hill Trail and a point about 250 ft northwesterly from junction with Holbrook Hill Rd.
- Bog Rd from junction with Bordeaux Rd to a point about 250 ft southwesterly from the dam at Bog Pond.
- Diamond Rd between a point about 135 ft westerly from the center of Rte 3 to a point about 810 ft westerly from the center of Rte 3.
- Old Mill Rd between northern junction with Rte 3 and a point about 675 ft southerly from the northern junction with Rte 3.

The following roads are designated sensitive areas:

- Potato Hill Road
- Christie Road