

THE STRATFORD OHRV CITIZENS COMMITTEE (SOCC) FORMS

In September residents of town roads complained to the Select Board of dust, noise, unsafe operation of OHRVs, and disrespectful behavior by some OHRV operators. The North Country ATV Club (NCATV) has grown increasingly frustrated that there is inadequate enforcement on OHRV trails and roads. The Select Board, wishing to hear from Citizens before adopting a new OHRV-Stratford Town Roads policy, convened a public hearing on the topic of Off-Highway Recreation Vehicles (OHRVs) on Stratford Class 5 and 6 Town Roads on October 7.

At the well-attended hearing, citizens favoring and opposing placing limits on OHRV access to town roads agreed that we as a community need to work together to address difficult and controversial issues, including:

- OHRVs on town roads;
- Enforcement and safety;
- The local economy;
- Improved communication regarding Stratford's challenges and opportunities for the future.

We formed the Stratford OHRV Citizens Committee to foster a community conversation, learn more about Town and OHRV issues, and to seek ways of addressing these challenges in a constructive, respectful manner. We adopted the name Stratford OHRV Citizens Committee, or SOCC. SOCC is an independent, volunteer citizens committee. It has no formal connection with the town government and is advisory only.