



January 17, 2022

Mr. Derek Goodine, Town Administrator
16 School Street
Allenstown, NH 03275

Re: Chester Turnpike & the Charity Classic Trail Ride for Cystic Fibrosis
Via: Municipal Website email to Mr. Goodine

Hello Mr. Goodine,

My name is Chip Fredette and I am once again writing to you on behalf of the Merrimack Valley Trails Riders (www.MVTR.org). In preparation for our 2020 Charity Classic Trail Ride event, you may recall your Board of Selectmen approved our request to use Chester Turnpike as part of the greater route. Shortly following that approval, COVID hit and the CF Foundation was forced to cancel all in person events for 2020. Due to the nature of how Cystic Fibrosis impacts children, the Foundation opted to cancel all in person events for 2021 as well.

I am pleased to report that after this 2 year COVID hiatus, MVTR is once again able to partner with the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation to hold our annual Charity Trail Ride in 2022!

MVTR

The Merrimack Valley Trail Riders (MVTR) has been in existence since 1972. At approximately 500, our club's membership consists of men, women, and children of all ages. MVTR's mission has been and still is... "*dedication to the safe and responsible enjoyment of the sport of dirt biking.*" MVTR is a charter member of the New Hampshire Off Highway Vehicle Association and American Motorcycle Association.

In 1976, MVTR was instrumental in creating the State's first designated wheeled OHRV riding area. Located on the north side of Clough State Park, it's commonly known as "Hop-Ev". Since that time, MVTR has partnered with the Bureau of Trails to maintain that system.

Charity Classic Trail Ride for Cystic Fibrosis

In addition to its duties at "Hop Ev", MVTR and its members host several annual competitive and noncompetitive events. The flagship event of course is the Charity Classic Trail Ride for Cystic Fibrosis (the "Classic"). The Classic is typically a two-day, noncompetitive charity off road street registered dirt bike trail ride to benefit the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Typically scheduled for the second weekend of June, the Classic is based at the New Hampshire Motor Speedway in Loudon. The event consists of two 100+ mile routes aptly named the Northern Loop and Southern Loop. One is ridden Saturday of the event weekend, the other on Sunday. Aboard their trail bikes, riders encounter all types of terrain; from single-track trail to the rigors of Class VI roads. The quality of riding is a testament to why the weekend long event raises more than \$100,000 each year for the Foundation.

Chester Turnpike

For decades, the Classic and its riders have historically used and enjoyed riding Chester Turnpike. It plays an integral role in the Classic's Southern Loop. As we've stated in the past, MVTR respects Allenstown's and Hooksett's decision to close Chester Turnpike to motorized vehicles. Hence, MVTR must request special permission to use Chester

<http://www.mvtr.org>



Turnpike for its annual charity trail ride. Please know that MVTR does not tolerate the “poaching” of trails. In fact, I am proud to report that riders of the Classic do not partake in this type of irresponsible riding.

Why wouldn't they leave the course...? Participants are tasked with riding more than 100 miles, start to finish. They are equipped with route sheets that provide turn by turn direction. This combined with field arrowing helps them stay on course. And though it is not a race, riders are strongly encouraged to stay on schedule with event milestones. The designated course and riders are policed by our own “Course Marshalls” to assist with mechanical issues or other potential problems.

How do we know they stay on course...? Following the last riders, we deploy two teams of “Sweep Riders” who clear the routes of signage and take stock in trail impact. Any areas that experience severe impact are noted for repair at a later date. It should be known that due to the hard packed and extremely rocky surface of Chester Turnpike, the impact of the Classic on it has never been more than negligible.

In closing, MVTR respectfully requests permission once again to use Chester Turnpike for its annual Charity Classic Trail Ride for Cystic Fibrosis. Specifically, use of the road would include the following:

- 1.) **2 pre-event rides**: One day in early May to clear the Road of blow downs; of 3 or 4 riders. Another day, also consisting of 3 or 4 riders, one week before the event to apply proper field signage.
- 2.) **Event weekend**: One day use for the Classic – **Saturday June 11, 2022**. All trail signage removed same day.

For your convenience, we've attached to this letter the Board's approval of MVTR's previous request.

Please know that again, for decades, the Classic has very much enjoyed and not taken for granted its annual use of Chester Turnpike. As mentioned before, it is key to the success of this charity event. We would be extremely grateful to you for your continued support!

Respectfully,

Chip Fredette, Vice President
Charity Classic Trail Coordinator

TOWN OF ALLENSTOWN
Selectboard Meeting
16 School Street
Allenstown, New Hampshire 03275
November 04, 2019

Call to Order

The Allenstown Selectboard Meeting of November 04, 2019 was called to order by Vice Chair Sandy McKenney at 6:00 pm.

Vice Chair McKenney called for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Present on the Board: Sandy McKenney, Maureen Higham; Ryan Carter was excused.

Allenstown Staff: Derik Goodine, Town Administrator; Kathleen Pelissier, Town Clerk/Tax Collector

Others Present: Chip Fredette, Vice President of Merrimack Valley Trails Riders; Michael Frascinella, EDC; Brian Arsenault, Code Enforcement Officer; Jeff Backman, Sewer Department Superintendent; Roxanne Chomas, Sewer Department Assistant Superintendent; Jim Rodger, ASC; Chad Pelissier, ASC Chairman; Craig Tufts, Central NH Regional Planning Commission; Tim Blagden, Friends of the Concord-Lake Sunapee Rail Trail; Eric Lambert, Deputy Fire Chief; Marc Boisvert, Acting Road Agent; David Raymond, Resident; Brian Goss, Resident

Citizens' Comments

Mr. Fredette stated that he was representing the Merrimack Valley Trail Riders and the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation who wish to request conditional use of the Allenstown portion of Chester Turnpike for the Club's annual Charity Classic Trail Ride for Cystic Fibrosis. The organization has been in existence since 1972 and is made up of 500 men, women and children dirt bike riders. This is the 40th year of this flagship event, which is a two-day ride covering 200 miles, starting in Loudon. This event is held the second weekend in June, is non-competitive, and raises over \$100,000. Mr. Fredette said the club understands Bear Paw and respects the Town Council. They do not tolerate the "poaching" of trails. Turn-by-turn directions are provided for participants and they have course marshals and sweep riders who clear signage along the route. He said there are two pre-event days when they would need to use the trail – one in May for three or four riders to clear the route of blowdowns and another day for three or four riders to apply proper field signage, which will be removed at the end of the second day.

Mr. Goodine said that the trails were recently closed, but that the Police Chief unlocks the gates for this event.

Ms. Pelissier said that this is a great event.

Ms. Higham made a motion to allow the Merrimack Valley Trail Riders to use the Allenstown section of Chester Turnpike for their charity event in June 2020. Ms. McKenney seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Public Hearing

- **Purchase of Land Identified as Map and Lots 114-001 and 115-001 by the Town of Allenstown for a Future Trail (first of two public hearings)**

Mr. Goodine said that the owner of these two lots approached the town with an offer to sell them. The lots are along the path of a possible future rail trail which would connect Allenstown to Hooksett's rail trail on one end and Pembroke's on the other.

Mr. Tufts said that this section is a gap in the rail trail extending from northern to southern New Hampshire. It was part of the charette created in 2016. Pembroke and Hooksett are working on their segments.

Mr. Blagden said the rail trail is about ten feet wide, with a ground of stone, dust or pavement. It is conducive to walking, jogging, bicycling or pushing a stroller. The trail is straight, which enhances safety, and it is popular as a municipal asset. Throughout the United States are 20,000 miles of rail trail. Of this total, 115 miles are in New Hampshire, running from Salem to West Lebanon. This, he said, is good for economic development and spurs overnight stays.

Vice Chair McKenney asked if there were restrictions for vehicles such as snowmobiles.

Mr. Blagden said that this is up to the owner of the segment for each easement and must be requested. Generally, the trails are for non-motorized 'quiet' sports.

Vice Chair McKenney asked if grants are available for trail development.

Mr. Blagden said that grants are available. He said that the Department of Transportation (DOT) offers grants through the Transportation Alternative Program (TAP). There are also grants awarded via Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds, and the Bureau of Trails has funds for recreational trails.

Mr. Tufts stated that getting easements is the most difficult task.

Mr. Goodine said that the town wishes to purchase the two lots for \$14,600, using the Parks and Recreation Projects capital reserve fund. There is a third lot available which the town might wish to purchase in the future.

Mr. Tufts said that an engineer has been retained to prepare a design/cost estimate for a trail across the Suncook River.

Vice Chair McKenney opened the public hearing at 6:20 pm.

Ms. Chomas said that she used to hike to Littleton, stopping to purchase candy or ice cream. She said the rail trail was not directly connected to Littleton.