

Colebrook
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May 29, 2019

Commissioner Victoria Sheehan
NH Department of Transportation
Hazen Drive Box 483
Concord, New Hampshire 03302-0483

Dear Commissioner Sheehan,

We are writing today to further our conversation regarding closure of state road OHRV crossings in the Town of Colebrook. You will recall our concerns voiced during your visit to Colebrook on May 20th which centered around a prolonged closure of the current US Route 3 and NH Route 145 crossings and the resulting negative economic impact such closures would have for Colebrook.

These closures in combination with a late start to ATV trail openings due to a prolonged winter have already created a decline in OHRV traffic which impacts the local economy significantly. Cancellations were widespread throughout the hotel, motel and cabin rental market during the recent Memorial Day weekend. There is also a trickle down effect to these cancellations including, but not limited to, restaurants, gift shops, stores, gas stations and their employees.

At the May 22nd road crossing meeting hosted by Chief Chris Gamache of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources-Bureau of Trails, over 85 percent of the 100 plus attendees supported non-closure of these trail access points and indicated that they wanted NHDOT to quickly solve the safety constraints underlying these closures so that the access points could be reopened swiftly.

As selectmen for the Town of Colebrook, we unanimously concur with the local majority sentiment and want to respectfully request that NHDOT seek the most expeditious resolution to these closures. It is with a great sense of urgency that we ask that you seek timely redress to this issue so that the Town and its many OHRV-related local businesses do not suffer unduly with a loss of revenue during the rapidly approaching ATV season.

Please contact us with your response to this request at 603-237-4070 or email our chairman Greg Placy at gplacy@colebrooknh.org at your earliest convenience. Thank you.