

Lamoine Comprehensive Plan Committee
Meeting with the Frenchman Bay Riders Snowmobile Club

Name of Group: Frenchman Bay Riders Snowmobile Club
Date of Meeting: 12/10/2015
Chair or contact person: Charlie Harding

Number of people attending:

For LCPC: Fred, Kathie, Bonnie, Richard, Andrea, Val, Brett, Bob and Mike.

For Frenchman Bay Riders: Charlie Harding and Josh Willard

Focus or primary responsibility of group: Maintaining 30 miles of snowmobile trails, for public use, in Lamoine and nearby. The trail ultimately connects to the rail trail network. There are 40 to 70 members.

Work of this group in actively planning for the future: Recently was audited by the Maine Snowmobile Association and had to establish that it maintained 30 miles of trails and had landowner consents (three year agreements, ideally for a 15 foot wide corridor) signed for all segments of the trail. Occasionally they need to move a trail, most frequently due to beaver dams. No plans to expand at this time.

Twenty miles or more of the trails are on gravel pit property and the gravel pit owners are very cooperative, both in granting permission and in supplying free materials for trail maintenance from their supplies.

A map of the trail network is now being printed up and will be available through the Town shortly and on the group Facebook page. The Town of Lamoine passes on its snowmobile registration fees (one-half of the fee paid) promptly, gives the group a month of the returnable bottle proceeds and is generally supportive. Other neighboring towns have dropped out.

Expressed concerns of group relating to focus or primary responsibility:

The trail is open to skiers and hikers, but they need to beware of the fact that snowmobiles can't always stop suddenly and sometimes go fast (There is no speed limit). (No injuries in such accidents in Lamoine in recent memory).

There are issues with the security of the snowmobile cabin and the group would like the Town to put a gate on the road.

Most landowners are OK with snowmobile and pedestrian use of the trail, but they are quite resistant to ATV use, and preventing ATV use can present practical problems.

Interesting facts/ideas that came out of the meeting: The rail trail will soon get a new spur to connect into Ellsworth as far as the Comfort Inn. The Lamoine Trail uses the powerline cut to get to Trenton and so goes from the Lamoine General Store to the Trenton Marketplace.

Follow up: Get a copy of the Trail Map when available.