

HB 1188 Commission to Study the Use of OHRVs in New Hampshire Approved Minutes

11/10/2022, 1:00pm NH F&G Dept, West Conference Room, 11 Hazen Drive

Present:

Andrew Renzullo - House
Eamon Kelley - House
Michael Eastman - NH F&G
David Rodrigue - NH DOT
Craig Rennie - DNCR BOT
Daniel Buteau - Berlin PD
Dan Bennett - NHADA
Abby Evankow - NHRTC
Steve Wilkie - NHOHVA
Ann Davis - NHTOA
Paul Doscher - NHSPF
Suzanne Smith - NHACC
Steve Jackson - NCC

Absent:

Larry Gagne - House
Dennis Thompson - House
Captain Christopher Vetter - NHSP
Paul Robitaille, NHMA

Public: Richard Parsons, NHOHVA, Natch Greyes NHMA, Adam Schmidt Snowmobile Club lobbyist, Matt Leahy SPNHF

Rep Renzullo nominated Rep Smith to chair the Commission. Nomination was seconded, all members concurred. The remainder of the meeting was chaired by Rep Smith.
Ms. Evankow volunteered to be clerk.

The General Court will host a website where minutes, presentations and other documents presented to the commission will be posted for members and the public.

Discussion of safety and education: Members discussed that a driver's license does not automatically cross over to safe OHRV riding. Etiquette can not be legislated. Question of what is street legal.

Captain Eastman explained F&G's on-line and live safety classes and clarified that most accidents involve 40-60 year old riders. The boating safety program led to a significant reduction in boating accidents.

Ms. Davis complimented the F&G Hunter Safety webpage and suggested that an OHRV safety page be built on that model.

Rep. Renzullo gave an overview that since 2005 he has seen the OHRV issue grow without proper oversight. He can see omissions. With the opening of Jericho State Park came big changes with unintended consequences which has had impacts on the non-using public. There have been big complaints from homeowners. The industry has grown from 3 wheeled ATVs to large side by sides. The Legislature is now playing catch up.

Members discussed some of the issues that have risen with the growth of the OHRV industry including the size and kind of machines have changed i.e. 2,000 pound machines tear up the trails; abutters have no say in the location of trails; what are the impact of OHRVs on wildlife and plants; there are conflicts along connectors from one area/trail to another.

Ms. Evankow urged the Commission to read the 2001 Legislative ATV Study Committee report and recommendations.

Subcommittee for safety and education:

Captain Eastman, Mr Rennie, Mr. Rodrigue, Mr. Wilkie, Mr. Bennett. Richard Parsons is also interested in attending the subcommittee meetings.

Chair Smith will send out relevant RSAs to commission members.

Next meeting is Dec 15. Captain Eastman will arrange remote access so members won't have to drive long distances to participate.

Meeting adjourned 1:55pm

Respectfully submitted, Abby Evankow--Clerk