

NOTICE OF DISCONTINUANCE AND RECLASSIFICATION

Pursuant to Title 19 V.S.A. section 708(a), the Selectmen of the Town of Albany hereby initiate a proceeding to discontinue Town Highway #4, and to reclassify a portion of Town Highway #22, also known as Gluck Road into a Trail. Said portion is further described as all of said road lying between the intersection of Gluck Road and Town Highway #19, also known as Centebar Road, and the intersection of Gluck Road and the northwest corner of the property now of formerly owned by Brian Gluck. On the 19th day of December, 2017, at the Albany Town Clerk's office, at 6:00 p.m., a hearing shall be held for the purpose of examining the premises and hearing the persons interested in said premises.

Dated at Albany, Vermont, this $\frac{74}{100}$ day of November, 2017.

Selectman

Selectman

Selectman

<u>Trails</u> are public rights-of-way which are not highways and are generally used for recreational purposes. They may be previously designated town highways or may be newly laid out (19 V.S.A. § 301(8) and 775). There is no minimum width required, and the ROW may be the full width of a section of highway or the width needed for a foot path. The municipality has no statutory maintenance obligations for trails, even as to bridges and culverts.

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Minutes for Hearing on TH-4 and Gluck Rd. – December 19, 2017

Meeting called to order at 6:00pm by Selectboard Chair Chris Jacobs.

Attendees included: S Chris Jacobs, Phillip Beaudry, Brian Goodridge, Angela Ross, Jeremy Nellis, Neil Fromm, Trina Newland, Brian Gluck, Debra Ann Geoffroy, and Terri Campbell.

Chris advised there are (2) roads being discussed tonight, TH-4 and Gluck Rd. Chris determined first that no one was present to discuss TH-4. Brian Goodridge provided background information to those present that TH-4 is listed incorrectly on the map, does not exist, and the meeting is the process to discontinue its' listing and request that the state remove it from the town map.

The hearing for Gluck Rd. is to change it from Class 4 to a Trail classification. There was discussion regarding current access to the various property owners' land and clarification of who would be responsible if it ever stops being utilized as a VAST trail. If that occurs, the bridge will remain in place, based upon a previously signed document from the Glover Snowmobile club. The bridge is currently wide and sturdy enough for driving. Phil noted that snowmobile clubs regularly build bridges, and several other examples were identified, though not up to town standards.

Jeremy Nellis is a landowner with 1 acre whose only access is across the current bridge, though his property touches Gluck Rd.

Brian Gluck is a landowner who has access from LaFont Rd.

Neil Fromm is a landowner whose property touches Gluck Rd. He expressed concerns If one of the landowners who is not present sells his property and a new landowner does not want the snowmobile club to use the land, then under current arrangements the bridge resorts to the town. Angela does not recommend that the bridge be deeded to any landowner due to potential liability issues.

Brian Gluck asked why the town wants to maintain it as a right of way. Phil advised that public access is important to the town for recreational needs.

If it does change to a Trail, there is the ability to reclassify it again as a Class 4 through the same hearing process. Legally the Town must maintain bridges and culverts on Class 4 roads.

Discussion continued on the Town abandoning the road and deeding the bridge to only the landowners, however Phil reiterated that keeping open access via a Trail is important for the whole town.

Upon reviewing the current maps, discussion developed into keeping a Class 4 designation to top of Jeremy Nellis' property from LaFont Rd, then changing it to a Trail classification for the remainder where it intersects with Centebar Rd. This allows access to all parties across the bridge. Phil recommended that the Town provide assistance to upgrade the Class 4 section in the future.

The meeting adjourned at 7:05PM by Chris Jacobs.

ROAD DISCONTINUANCE

TOWN OF ALBANY ORDER OF DISCONTINUANCE OF A PORTION OF TOWN HIGHWAY #4 AND RECLASSIFICATION OF TOWN HIGHWAY #22

WHEREAS, on November 7, 2017, the Selectboard of the Town of Albany resolved to hold a public hearing relating to the discontinuance of Town Highway #4 located in the Town of Albany, and reclassify a portion of Town Highway #22;

WHEREAS, the Selectboard of the Town of Albany has the authority to initiate the discontinuance and reclassification of Town Highways on its own motion as authorized in 19 V.S.A. \$708(a);

WHEREAS, Notice of Hearing was published on December 6, 2017, in The Chronicle, a newspaper of general circulation in the Town of Albany;

WHEREAS, Notice was given by the Selectboard by certified mail on November 14, 2017 sent to Troy and Dawn Gilbert, Paul and Rita Martin, Brian Gluck, Neil Fromm and Trina Newland, Michael Schneider, Kendall and Bonnie Locke, Jeremy Nellis and Virginia Burke, and Steele Family Trust who are the parties owning or interested in lands through which the said Town Highways passed or abutted, which Notice set forth the date and time of the Public Hearing in this matter;

WHEREAS, Notice was also posted in the office of the Albany Town Clerk, and at the Albany Post Office, on November 14, 2017 in accordance with 19 V.S.A. Section 709;

WHEREAS, Hearing was held on December 19, 2017 at 6:00 P.M. at the Town Clerk's office in the Town of Albany which were the date, time and place set forth in the Notice and the Selectboard having examined the premises and heard all interested parties who appeared at said Hearing, determined and adjudged that the public good, common necessity and convenience of the residents of the Town of Albany are not adversely affected in any manner

THEREFORE, based upon the foregoing and upon there being no public good, common necessity or convenience to the inhabitants of the Town of Albany requiring that Town Highway #4 remain open or that all of Town Highway #22 remain a Class 4 highway, it is hereby RESOLVED AND ORDERED Town Highway #4 be discontinued and that a portion of Town Highway #22 be reclassified to a public trail. The portion of the Town Highway #22 to be reclassified to a public trail is further described as follows:

All of said road lying between the intersection of Town Highway #22, also known as Gluck Road and Town Highway #19, also known as Centebar Road, and the intersection of Town Highway #22 and the southeast corner of the property now of formerly owned by Jeremy Nellis.

This Order is executed pursuant to 19 V.S.A. \$711(a). DATED AT ALBANY, Vermont, this <u>lo</u> day of January, 2018.

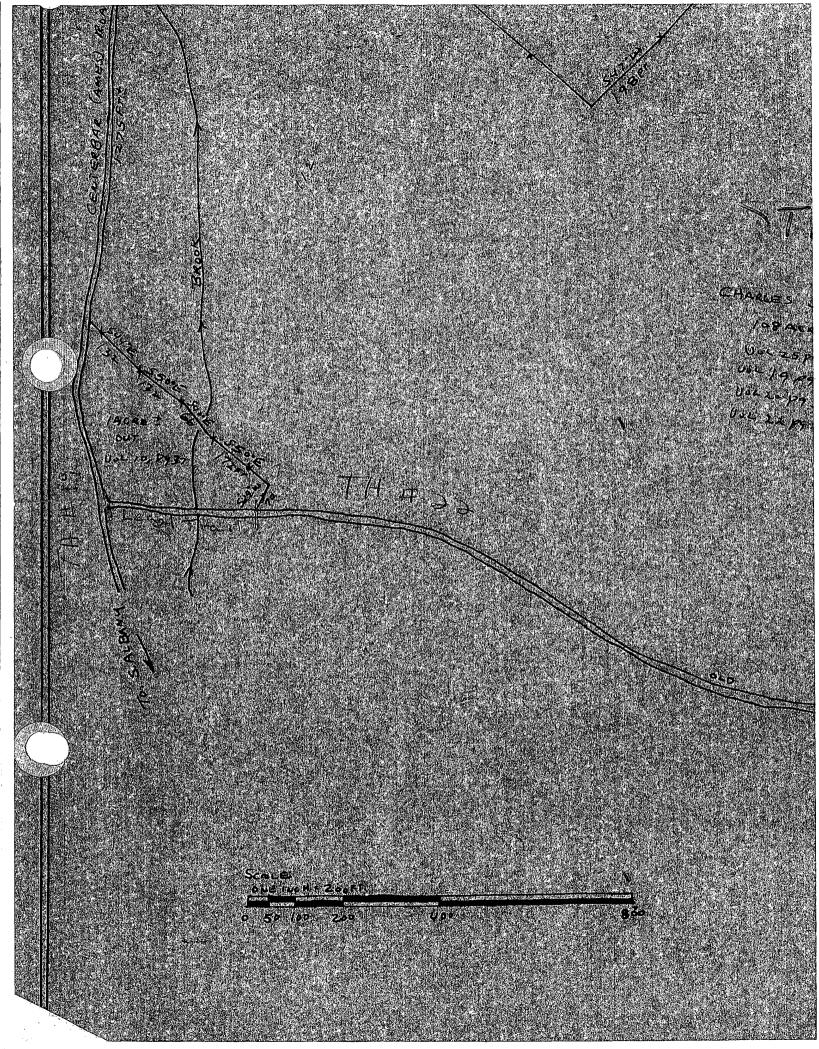
SELECTBOARD, TOWN OF ALBANY

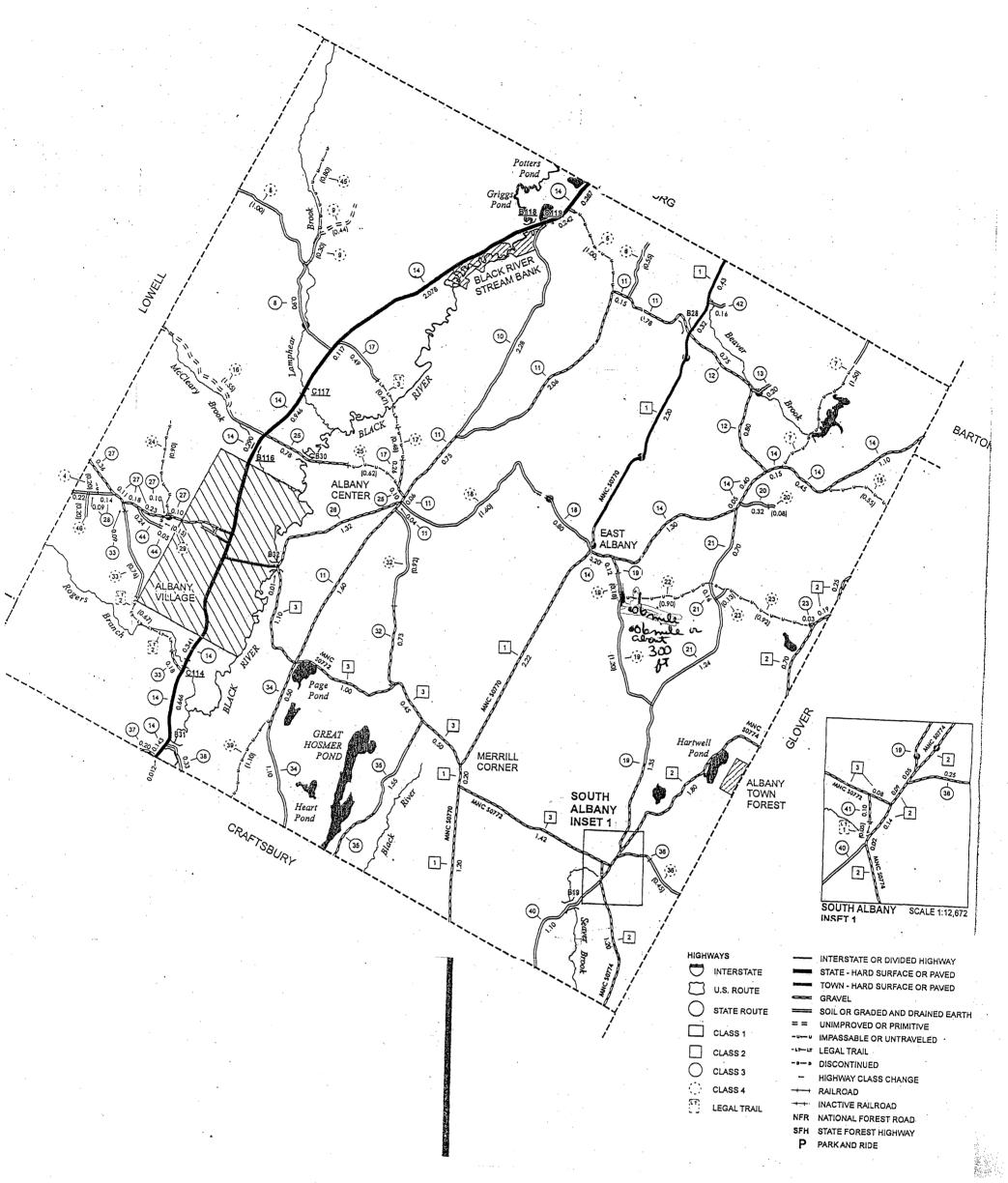


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