

Meeting minutes for Hull ATV/UTV Task Force – Wed. 10-9-19

Task Force Members In Attendance: John Holdridge – Task Force Chairperson, Jan Way – Task Force Vice Chairperson, Mary Olson, Brett Boehnlein, Madelin Petz, Larry Barikmo, Victor Cejka, Jon Wroblewski, Bill Glodowski, Jim Kalpinski, Janet Wolle – acting as Task Force Secretary, Pete Kaminski – Hull Road Foreman.

Task Force Member Excused: Matt Johnson

Others in attendance: Barb Brilowski, Dave Wilz, George Pliska, Leroy Puhop, John Koshnick, Paul Leonard

1. Call to order. Meeting called to order by Chairperson Holdridge at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 9, 2019.

2. Public Comments.

John H. announced that Janet Wolle will be retiring from Hull after 42 years of service to the Town. Retiring at the end of this year.

North Second Drive should be done and opening up soon.

JH read an article from the local website newswire service and corrected a comment in the article. The article said Hull would soon have routes designated for ATV/UTV use. That is inaccurate. No officials at Hull have agreed to that as yet. It is still under discussion.

Task Force mission is to come up with a recommendation to the Hull Board of Supervisors on a course of action in terms of permission or non-permission of ATV/UTV use on Hull roads. The Hull Board of Supervisors authorized the formation of this Task Force.

Handouts included legal information from Brian Lockman who works for the DNR.

There was also an article in the packet from Atlanta talking about cities having a problem with scooters on sidewalks and accidents involving them. Cities are starting to restrict scooter traffic.

JH said this is a public meeting subject to the Wisconsin open meeting laws. Must have an agenda and stick to the agenda. Meeting operates by Parliamentary Procedure.

This is a mixed group of citizens who support ATV use and others who do not and have questions about its use. The idea is to have discussions and share ideas prior to passing along a recommendation to the Hull Board of Supervisors.

Janet Wolle included in members packets information about 2018 Off Hwy. Vehicle fatal accidents and other information. This was from the Wisconsin Towns Association website. Janet read through some specifics of the report. Also shared was a document from the WTA website called Wisconsin Off Highway Vehicle Regulations from 2019, Wisconsin All-Terrain Vehicle laws from 2014 and other related documents.

3. Membership Review and Update.

Chairperson Holdridge asked members to introduce themselves and tell a little bit about themselves. John introduced himself. He spent 17 years on the County Board. Represented Stevens Point, then represented the Town of Hull. He is a retired administrative teacher. Taught at SPASH for 9 years. Taught advanced placement government. He has been chairperson at Hull for around 30 years. A resident in Hull since 1980. A veteran. Will be taking advantage of a VA program to assist the blind by taking a one-month training program at the Hines VA Center in Chicago to learn how to use computers and other technology.

Jan Way – Town of Hull Supervisor. Lives on Wilshire now for 30 years but prior to that over by Biscayne near Granite Ridge for 8 years. In the past, was a teacher for 7 years. Also a retired business owner.

Marilyn Petz – lives just off Casimir, grew up out there. Lived in Hull around 25 years. Works for planning and zoning for City of Wisconsin Rapids.

Victor Cejka – Fox Ridge Road in the Granite Ridge area. Lived in Hull for 3 years but lived in Stevens Point prior to that for about 10 years. Works for the railroad.

Jim Kalpinski – lived in Hull 25 years total. Currently retired. Used to be on the County Board.

John Wroblewski – lives on Evergreen Drive. Grew up in Hull. Lived in Stevens Point before that. Works for Wroblewski Concrete. A long time before he retires.

Larry Barikmo – Edgewood Lane. Lived in Hull 3 years. Retired from GE Healthcare.

Brett Boehnlein – lived in Hull for 38 years. Currently on North Second Drive.

Mary Olson – Riverview Court. Lived in Hull about 15 years. Does family day-care in her home.

Bill Glodowski – Torun Road. Lived in current house 13 ½ years. Grew up in Stevens Point. Enjoys the Hull area and people. Was sick of Stevens Point and that's why he moved to Hull. He works for railroad as the Stevens Point maintainer taking care of the tracks from County Hwy. M all the way to Amherst Junction. On the railroad for 13 years. Not retired yet.

Pete Kaminski – worked for Hull about 20 years so far.

4. Wisconsin Law Governing ATV/UTVs.

Brian Lockman of the DNR has information in the member's packet on the Wisconsin Law. The Town wants to be in conformity with the State law. Please read through it. It's important that the law is clear and that we understand it.

5. Topics for Task Force to Exam and Investigate.

There is a list of 5 items: Factors to be Investigated (a handout). Please read through it and if there are other things that should be included, get back to us.

JH spoke about #4 which talks about the importance of getting public feedback.

The Task Force needs to come up with a package of information for the Hull Board to work with once a recommendation is made to them. It was recommended by a Task Force member to scan and create a PDF document to share on the Hull website, the documents the Task Force was given, less the Pok-A-Snoz map and less the fatality data as that can be misleading. The PDF could be posted as a link to these documents on our website.

Once the Task Force makes a recommendation to the Hull Town Board, the Board will mostly likely have a public hearing.

6. Urban Area Policies / Ordinances on ATV Usage.

In the packet was a memo from Janet Wolle regarding this. Janet contacted various local municipalities regarding ATV/UTV usage on their roads. Village of Plover bans them. Stevens Point bans them. Village of Whiting bans them. Village of Park Ridge bans them. These are all incorporated municipalities.

7. Road Usage on Hull Collector Roads.

This is data collected by Pete Kaminski using a road counter over various years including data as recently as within the past few months. He shared data including speeds travelled on roads, what types and how many of various vehicles. The written report was given to all the Task Force members. Roads included Brilowski, Casimir Road, Jordan Road, Old Hwy. 18, Old Wausau Road, Torun Road, Wilshire Drive, North Second Drive. As soon as North Second is done, Pete will put up the machine for one week to collect new data on that road. By the next Task Force meeting, Pete will have new information/data to share. Torun and Brilowski both have a lot of trucks traveling on them. Once North Second Drive opens up, more of the trucks will go on North Second instead of Torun.

8. Public Feedback Report Means.

Thoughts and discussion on how we reach out to citizens as we develop the plan and take a position. How do we get feedback from our citizen, and should we get feedback. Should we have a public meeting for them to talk about their concerns. There are a number of ways this can be done.

Mary Olson – don't know how we've done this in the past. Hull doesn't have Facebook. This was raised by the Hull Water Committee in the past. Mary said social media is a big thing and we have a couple of choices. If we want to spend money on contacting Hull citizens, then we're looking at mailings and paperwork. When we put the information out, we need to know what information we're giving them. It has to be pertinent to this topic, unbiased, appropriate and respectful. It must be accurate and address all the issues including legal, speed limits, what usage on our roads would look like so that people living along those roads will know. Mary said

Sheriff Lukas had indicated that if Hull opens roads to ATV use, it should be all the roads. Mary said the easiest way to get this information out there is by having a Facebook page. This could be the cheapest way to get the information out there, some sort of social media platform. Mary felt once citizens get unbiased, useful information about this, they will let the Town know how they feel about this issue. We could do it by mail with a tri-fold brochure with the ATV issue information but it needs to be simple and explain what this would look like in their neighborhood. Explaining potential speed limits, hours of operation on roads, noise levels in decibels and what that looks like or is comparable to. Then invite people to a meeting at this time and this place. Need to move this forward quickly. There should be an answer to this within 3 months.

Some towns that have opened their roads to these vehicles do so on a probationary timeframe giving it one-year with some objective guidelines to see how it goes before deciding if they want to make it permanent.

Comments that not everyone has or uses Facebook. Therefore if the Town uses Facebook, that would be a starting point in getting information out but the Town still needs to do additional ways of reaching out with information. About $\frac{3}{4}$ of the people at this Task Force meeting indicated they have/use Facebook. Jan Way was concerned about feedback via Facebook. She sees the same people commenting on Facebook no matter what gets posted and some of those people say bad things and it can get nasty. Jan wasn't sure using Facebook for public feedback would work. But she did think it could be used to get information out there. An informational page can be used that doesn't allow feedback. If people want to comment, once they see the information on Facebook, they can bring themselves to the meetings to make their comments.

The Town will investigate more about how Facebook might work for use with the Town. Government entities work differently in that posting something on a Town Facebook would require prior approval of the Town Board. It could be difficult to get someone to maintain the Facebook page once it's up and running. Time frames can be an issue in posting items.

It was suggested to mail out a postcard to the 2,000 plus Hull residents to cover those who would not be using social media. There is a Hull fall newsletter coming out shortly. Barb B. felt a bulk mailing would run around \$700 or \$800 (for a

postcard). Barb will include a note about the November Task Force meeting in the Fall newsletter. State the purpose of the Task Force, date of the next meeting, time, location and that all are invited as it's a public meeting. That will go to every Hull household.

Discussion about the map shared with the Town from the Pok-a-snoz group. This was never an officially accepted map. It just showed what roads and areas the Pok-a-snoz would like to have for ATV use. The Town Board will ultimately make that decision about roads based somewhat upon what the Task Force recommends to the Board. Sheriff Lukas has indicated all roads should be open to ATV's in order to make it more enforceable, not just some roads.

Discussion about if the current members of the this Task Force represent the people who would be using roads in Hull for ATV use. If only some roads are recommended, how do these Task Force members represent the people living along those specific roads. If you don't live along a road that is proposed for use by ATV, should you really be making the decision to use or not use that road. You would have no vested interest in it. And it would be hard to enforce that way. **The Task Force felt it should be all the roads or none of the roads.**

A motion was made to decide to have either all roads (that fall under State statutes) or none of the roads open to ATV/UTV usage in Hull per discussion. Motion seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

The reason the motion was made was to get the entire Town of Hull notified that this does affect them and they would be able to come and comment on this issue.

Education and enforcement will be key to this issue. Clarification is needed as to who and how tickets and enforcement is done. Whether by the DNR or the Sheriff's Department.

Comments about if we have a hard time enforcing current speed limits for current vehicles on the road, how much harder will it be to enforce ATV/UTV's.

There are some areas in Hull where you cannot get to a Hull road without traveling on or crossing a City or County road. You cannot cross a State highway with these vehicles. Some roads have 9,000 or 10,000 vehicles per day on them. Hull is unique in that it is on both sides of the State highway.

The question was asked if there are any roads in Hull that have a speed limit higher than 35 mph that these Task Force members live on. One possibility could be to have ATVs on roads with speeds limits of 35 mph or less. Pete K. said Northstar Road going north is 45 mph. Maybe only about 4 roads or portions of roads have 45 mph in Hull.

Comments about the difficulty of keeping Hull car drivers at or under the posted speed limit. Therefore, it could be hard to keep ATV/UTV users also at or under the speed limit. There has already been an accident on the newly redone North Second Drive and it only has one layer of pavement on it so far.

Paul Leonard, a citizen that lives on Casimir Road, recommended that a review of speed limits for roads be done so they are in line with State statutes. JH said our speed limits are set according to the State law limitations.

Mary Olson referred to a Joint County ATV Group in the southern part of the state. It has 4 counties that are part of an ATV club. All 4 counties have representation at these meetings. She will find the name of their website and get it back to our group.

9. Full Disclosure by Task Force Members – Ownership of ATV/UTV.

Task Force members that have/use either an ATV or a UTV include:

Victor C., Jon W., Jan W., Larry B., Bill G.

Discussion about how ATV use now on a road could get a ticket even if it's just pulling a wagon with kids for Halloween.

Discussion about whether or not ATV's would be used within subdivisions.

10. Update on North Second Drive.

North Second Drive will be opening within the next 15 days or so. The Hull Board recently approved hiring additional deputies for limited hours (off duty) to monitor this road as soon as it opens. Maybe from 4 to 6 pm on Tuesday and Thursdays. Speeding is expected to happen once the road is complete. About \$1,800 will be spent on this limited time coverage. There is some money in the proposed budget for next year for this type of additional coverage.

Comments about any roads that are fixed up like North Second Drive should have the digital speed signs on them (showing drivers what speed they are driving and flashing if their speed is over the speed limit).

The Town will look at how many events or accidents happen on a given road and that helps determine how Town funds are allocated to address the need for monitoring various roads in Hull.

Comments on how once the road gets broke in, the number of users will probably go down a bit.

11. Future Meeting Dates. Wednesdays are a good day of the week for members for meeting. The time of 5:30 p.m. was also acceptable. *It was decided the next ATV/UTV Task Force meeting will be at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 13, 2019. Jan Way, as Task Force Vice-Chair, will be heading up that meeting.*

Recommendations that between now and the next meeting, Task Force members should do their research and look into how probationary periods might work, look at other towns' websites, their minutes on this topic, what citizens were saying about the process. If they find a good article about this topic, send it to Barb B. and she will distribute it to the Task Force members. This can be done by email as well

12. Adjournment.