

Jessica Lanier and Greg Morell
7 Pleasant St
Gorham

January 25, 2021

To the Planning Board:

We are seriously concerned about the plan to increase/enlarge/ further promote ATVs in downtown Gorham. This past summer the noise, dust, and congestion from ATVs on weekends was intolerable (audible almost all the way up Pine Mountain). We purchased our home here to enjoy nature and small-town life. We were among the majority of Gorham residents who voted for a WALKABLE downtown in the 2020 Master Plan. We think the commitment to ATVs recently shown by the governing bodies of Gorham is short-sighted and counterproductive to the sustainable development of the town and the long-term quality of life of its residents. Honestly, if I had been a hiker visiting Gorham any weekend last August or early September, I would have made plans to stay elsewhere after seeing the town's commitment to ATV tourism to the detriment of all else. This type of recreation is incompatible with the green recreation and tourism we should be promoting (walking, hiking, biking, etc.) Why are we even considering this when the town is already dealing with the Lancaster Rd. debacle?

Therefore, we request that you conduct an impact analysis of any proposed expansion for Northeast Rentals. It was awful all summer to go by their location on foot or to navigate the ATVs turning around and crossing our main thoroughfare. There was no parking anywhere around their location. As noted above, the roar of ATVS was audible from one side of town to the other. A review of police complaints clearly shows that ATV riders are NOT following the laws and that Gorham does not have the personnel to enforce compliance.

We ask the planning board to conduct a thorough impact analysis that addresses these issues: environmental damage, quality of life (especially noise) and community impact. We have an opportunity to make a choice about Gorham's future and the board should carefully consider the long-term sustainability and desirability of this type of economic development.

Respectfully,
Jessica Lanier
Greg Morell

CC: Denise Vallee