

Michelle Lutz

From: Marybeth Smith <marybethsmith@outlook.com>
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2021 8:41 PM
To: Michelle Lutz
Cc: Denise Vallee
Subject: Thursday's Planning Board Meeting

Hello Ms. Lutz,

Below is a letter regarding the site plan review for Northeast Rentals scheduled for Thursday night's Planning Board meeting. We would like to request that you forward this email to the entire board and although we do plan to attend, we would appreciate it being read into the minutes at Thursday night's meeting.

Thanks very much.

Marybeth Smith

Dear Planning Board Members,

We are writing to express our concern about a Site Plan Review for Northeast Rentals (dba Summer Fun) pending before your board that will have a significant impact on our town. Over the past year, we have seen what has happened with the ATV rental business in Gorham. Our roads were jammed with ATVs which, in many cases, were riding throughout the town regardless of whether the roads were restricted or not. To further expand this to 3, 4 or more times the current rental numbers (the plans provided do not cap the number of rental ATVs) and have it located in the middle of downtown is of major concern.

Before any consideration of approval, we are requesting that the town engage a consultant to conduct an Impact Analysis under section 6 of the Site Plan Review Regulations. We are concerned that the balance of outdoor recreation in Gorham will shift dramatically towards ATV use to the detriment of other activities like a walkable downtown, hiking and fishing. We feel that Northeast Rentals moving to this new location will clearly have a negative impact on noise, traffic, parking, recreation and community safety. In addition, last year there were more than 50 ATV related police calls regarding Northeast Rentals so this expanded business will clearly put increased demands on community resources like police as well.

Please note that we are not anti-ATV people. We own our own ATV and enjoy riding. However, we have observed rental riders driving recklessly wherever we go to the point that we no longer ride on weekends because it's just not enjoyable anymore. In fact, when we do ride, we usually head north to trails in Milan and Dummer to get away from the noise and congestion in and around Gorham.

While we recognize and appreciate the economic benefits that ATVs have brought to the community we feel the limit may have been reached and are concerned with a plan that increases daily rentals to 175 or more ATVs (with no cap). Any short term economic benefits could be outweighed by a diminished community experience.

Thank you for considering our request for an Impact Analysis before giving approval.

Sincerely,

Marybeth and Mark Smith