Good morning all,
I wanted to give an update as to ATV access from HOLA.
I have met with Jake at Boss Powersports, local ATV club representative. He has been in contact with the state.
He outlined what was needed for HOLA to gain access to the local trails via the power lines and crossing Nile Brook.
He is proposing to build a bridge over Nile Brook with material that is already on hand from an existing project. The trail leading to the bridge would consist of a series of switchbacks instead of the current steep hill that is causing the erosion problems. Gates would be placed at the end of HOLA and the beginning of the public trail. A code would need to be entered to gain access to HOLA property. The gates leading to HOLA would be LOCAL ACCESS ONLY restricting non members from entering HOLA. The club would assume responsibility for the new access and any liability would fall under the clubs insurance, hence protecting landowners from any unauthorized travel. All expenses would be covered by the local club through state grants and fees. Essentially HOLA would have its own private access and bridge to the atv trails maintained by the local club. Other private associations have this arrangement and appears to be working for them.
        If this proposal is approved, it would solve the three main issues that are plaguing our association at present.
1. Restrict unfettered access from non-members of HOLA trespassing on HOLA property.
2. Stop the erosion of the power line and subsequent silt from entering Nile Brook.
3. Protect landowners under the clubs insurance from liability caused by unauthorized trespass resulting in injuries etc.

        The association and our members would benefit enormously from this proposal if it was granted. Folks that enjoy the sport of ATVing and Snowmobiling would have access to the vast trail system that the area offers and would curb and hopefully eliminate the riding of our private roads by non- members and renters because of non access to the trails.
        Our members would continue to enjoy high property values as private trail access is a huge benefit sought by potential buyers. Our roads would not be subjected to enormous wear and tear from trailering to trail head.

The atv / snowmobile committee has also proposed that stickers be issued to members for their machines, identifying them as HOLA residents. This would alleviate any potential issues of identification of non compliance with HOLA rules. (abusing road privileges etc).
I would also seek to remove the restriction of members to access the waterfront via atvs. The responsibility of crossing Rt 4  to the waterfront solely rests with the operator of the atvs and is not the responsibility of HOLA to enforce the law.

        As of right now, this is only a proposal. To get the ball rolling and take the next step through the local club and on to the state, certain obligations must be met.

1. Gaining land owners permission that border the power lines in the area of the trail.
2. Gaining permission from CMP. Although CMP doesn’t own the land, they have a right of way and must sign off.
3. Once this is accomplished, the local club will take the ball and run with it.
4. The local club rep. is willing to put a written proposal together and submit to the board.

I hope this offers some clarification of what is needed and what the potential benefits are if this proposal goes forward.
I would request that this email be forwarded to all HOLA members so that we can make them aware of what is needed to accomplish our goals.

Thank you and enjoy the summer.
Dana Pagley