

PUBLIC HEARING
7PM 11/20/19
TO DISCUSS STATUS OF WIGGIN ROAD

At 7pm Jessica Hatch opened the public hearing about Wiggin Road to talk about the possibility of putting up "No Thru Trucking" signs.

Present were:

Jessica Hatch, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen
Lyn England, Selectman
James Phelps, Selectman
Karen Padgett, Administrative Assistant
Jeremy Cornell, Road Agent

Christopher and Jennifer Fore
Bernie Golden

Chairperson Hatch opened up the floor for comments.

Jennifer Fore spoke about concern for the safety of her family. She stated that there has been an increase in traffic of wide load trailers using Wiggin Road as a drive through road. She had photos and video on her phone of some of the vehicles, heavy equipment and 18 wheelers. The road is narrow and winding and they have personally experienced meeting these types of vehicles on the road, sometimes resulting in the trucks going off the road.

Chris Fore stated that it is the big trucks that are the concern. They spoke of trucks ending up in the ditch, leaving ruts in the drainage ditches. Taking the shortcut over Wiggin doesn't make any sense because it isn't quicker. The current signage "narrow winding road" and "GPS routing not advised" does not seem to deter this large truck traffic.

New Canada Rd is a "No Thru Trucking" road. There are loggers that are bringing logs off of New Canada, down Ragged Mountain Rd to Wiggin and over to Route 4.

Jessica read into the record a letter from Deanna Stiles, who lives on Wiggin Rd. She expressed thanks to the Board for addressing the need for no thru trucking. While walking on the road, she has experienced several close calls with logging and other trucks. She hopes we can keep the road as a beautiful dirt road for local traffic.

Bernie Golden asked if the hearing was precipitated by residents of the road. Jim stated that concerns of the residents led to the hearing. Mr. Golden asked how do you police it if posted no through trucks. Other than the signage, it would be difficult. Bernie also suggested contacting Ragged Mountain Resort and ask them to speak with their vendors and ask them not to use Wiggin Road.

Jim said that this Board of Selectmen had not ever gone through this type of situation before so they decided to have a public hearing before making any decision on the status of the road.

Many trucks are being guided by GPS, not knowing the road is not suitable for through trucking.

Jim made a motion to close Wiggin Road to through trucking of vehicles over 26,000 pounds based on the narrowness of the road and the poor visibility. Motion was seconded by Jessica and passed 3-0.

The public hearing was closed at 7:21pm.