

July 21, 2018

James Wheeler
City Manager
City of Berlin, NH

Mayor Paul Grenier

Berlin City Council Members

Dear Mr. Wheeler, Mayor Grenier, and Council members:

Is the time right to undertake a survey to get feedback from Berlin residents regarding the passage of the ordinance allowing ATV traffic on city streets?

In reading the multitude of letters to editors, as well as other articles in various publications, it appears that the impact from the development of the Ride the Wilds campaign has been negative for many Coos County residents. Just looking to our neighbors in the Town of Gorham where a group of residents has felt the need to resort to legal measures as a result of the ATV frenzy, we can see that the impact of this recreational activity has also had negative effects on the people who live in the community. When encouraging recreational activity that drastically changes the neighborhoods by causing excessive noise and severe dusty conditions, it's critical that quality of life issues be addressed. Residents whose quality of life has been compromised should be encouraged to contact their government officials and voice their concerns.


I hear constantly how the ATV's are a tremendous boon to the economy. The local businesses are said to have benefitted from the ATV traffic. I do wonder if there are actually some businesses that have suffered from the change in the character of Berlin and the surrounding towns. The above-mentioned survey could also include businesses so that they too have the opportunity to give their opinions.

It's been several years since the passage of the Ordinance allowing ATV traffic on city streets. I am not certain that allowing the ATV's on the streets is necessary to reap any economic benefit from the ATV groups. Even without riding on city streets, the riders can access businesses by trailering their machines or leaving the machines at the trailheads and driving their pickups to the business they want to visit.

By asking for feedback from Berlin residents and businesses, this would demonstrate that, as a community, the leaders are not focusing strictly on economic growth with no regard for the impact on its residents.

I request that consideration be given to conducting the survey which could provide a good vehicle for residents to voice their concerns or, if applicable, express their satisfaction with the OHRV ordinance.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Claire".

Claire Stiles
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