

## Town Of Hartland – Ancient Roads Committee

The Hartland Ancient Roads Committee was formed in May of 2007 in accordance with Vermont Act 178. The purpose is to determine the legal status of the town's highways and is funded, as were many other Vermont towns, by a \$5000 grant from the Vermont Department of Housing and Community Affairs.

Volunteer members, past and present, include: Anne Adams, Diane Bibby, Jay Boeri, Shelly Bowley, Walter Davis, Dean Greenberg, Betz Haartz, Julie Hazen, Daniel Morancy, Sandy Palmer, Nancy Plimpton, Mandi Potter, Bambi Prigel, Yvonne Rice, Ronnie Rice, Gary Trachier

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Our first and most important task is to inventory all the highways that have been adopted by the selectboard since 1784. Almost without exception, these roads were accurately surveyed by transit, compass, and chain. Our work includes transcribing this data and using GPS devices to reference points along the historic road's path to present day landmarks. The last step in the inventory process is to create a map of all lawful and non-discontinued highways, then compare the results to today's "official" town highways. This will allow us to identify all of the "ancient" roads that might have been forgotten or otherwise absent from today's map.

We have had help from the Ottauquechee Regional Planning Commission and the mapping services of a Geographic Information Services (GIS) professional.

By statute, our work needs to be complete by July 1, 2009.

Finally, it will be up to the selectboard to take this information and determine the legal status of any newfound road. Public hearings will be held on a case-by-case basis. By statute, the selectboard will have until July 1, 2015 to act on the roads, and public access, will automatically be lost forever.

There has been much complaint by other Ancient Road Committees in the state that the Vermont General Assembly provided so little time, resources, and organization to do this work. Hartland's committee will support pending legislation to extend the inventory period by one year and hope for the support of our local legislative representatives.

Ancient Road meetings are held frequently. Minutes of those meetings and much more can be found on our website <http://www.ruralvt.com/ancientroads>