

October 16, 2023

To - Heritage Commission, Forestry Committee, Board of Selectmen

Subject – Tuckertown Road

During the August 9th Heritage Commission meeting, there was discussion about unauthorized improvements made to Tuckertown road during the Stafford Family Land Trust timber cut in November of 2019.

A statement was made that the Stafford family improved half a mile of Tuckertown road.

When discussing Town ordinances, advisory board recommendations, or selectmen decisions, it is important to deal with accurate facts. In this case, the comments made were misleading and the facts were inaccurate. No one providing these inaccurate facts had requested information directly from the Stafford family prior to this meeting.

I am sending this letter to clarify misconceptions that were raised during this meeting and document the facts.

In November of 2019, my family worked with a forester to cut timber on our parcel Map 1 lots 55 and 64 that abut Tuckertown Road. An authorization to cut was submitted and approved by the selectmen. Timber cut taxes were paid after the project was completed and clear records should exist that this took place and was authorized. The project started and completed within the month of November 2019

Prior to starting the timber cut operation, a site walk was held with the Danville Road Agent, Forester, logger, and myself. During the site walk we agreed on the landing area and safest way to have trucks enter and exit our land onto and off of Tuckertown road. The landing area where all equipment and trucks entered and left our property is about .1 miles from the entrance to Tuckertown road. This part of Tuckertown road was in good condition. No repairs, amendments or improvements were needed to Tuckertown road to start this project. The one point the road agent brought up was that we needed to ensure no mud or debris was brought onto Rte 111A.

A few days after the project started, we had a heavy rain and mud was dragged onto Rte 111A and ruts were forming on Tuckertown road. I contacted the road agent immediately and asked what he recommended be done. He suggested having the logger add some gravel to repair this section of the road and reduce the mud and debris being brought onto Main Street. We followed the road agents instructions and the logger added approximately 120 Cubic yards from the entrance of Tuckertown road to the landing area that is approximately .1 miles not .5 miles from rte 111A.

The road repairs that were completed were authorized by the Danville Road Agent.

Furthermore, I understand there is a public hearing on October 23rd to discuss declaring Tuckertown road an emergency road to enable taxpayer dollars to improve the road. Unfortunately, I will be out of town on this date, but I would like to formally state that the Stafford family does not support significant

improvements or alterations to Tuckertown road. Many town residents and my extended family use Tuckertown road for walking, biking, and motorized vehicle recreation today. We allow people to hike, bike and ATV off of Tuckertown road onto our property. People we encounter in the woods are respectful of the land. Our property is not posted as “no trespassing” on purpose.

The current amount of traffic on Tuckertown road is manageable and has not damaged the road or our forestry trails. The condition of Tuckertown road is good enough to support the current use in moderation. I have serious concerns that significant changes or improvements to the road will result in much more traffic, damage to branch trail systems like ours, and could permanently change the character of this designated scenic road. Over the years, as described in the Danville zoning ordinance document, the town has voted to preserve Tuckertown road by formally closing the road, declaring it a scenic road, and classifying it as a class A trail. The Stafford family supports maintaining and adhering to the intent of these designations.

We also support keeping the gate at the entrance. Since the gate was added, the problem of trash and construction debris dumping has essentially stopped.

Sincerely,

Chris Stafford,
Trustee, Stafford Family Land Trust
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