

Hello

Unfortunately this issue doesn't allow me to be brief.

My name is Michael Shaw. I Reside in my van. July 29th 2021 I purchased a property: 703 Mountain View Annex Rumford Maine, 20 acres of complete paradise, after a long career in law enforcement, and retired Army National Guards ,Medic. This was the perfect place.

I was told that my house was on a discontinued road. That is it . Who knew the actual meaning of discontinuance? Apparently not me!! The identifier certainly leads one to believe it is a road no longer used by the public, when in all actuality it is one frequently used just not maintained by the Town

The first week I was threatened by some angry people on ATVs . Yelling that I can NOT!! Be driving on this road with my vehicle. Threats to slash my tires, as time went on the Threats got worse, to include two bullets shots at my vehicle front windshield.

By this time I had already informed the police, and to get some clarification on use of this discontinued road. I phoned the town manager who reported that it is an

ATV access route,

a snowmobile trail 17N, 17S .

The town water shed is located up this discontinued road,

Logging signs evidence of Logging company in the area,

and Hikers .

Something didn't seem right. Within a month I learned that I purchased a property that is landlocked.

However this isn't about legal access but physical access.

This discontinued road from 1951 has many different features, it is unique. This is considered a public easement unrestricted for public use and they sure do use this road. The first half of the road is paved and maintained by the Town, the second portion is dirt, bumpy, rocky, unmaintained by the Town, the road is a mess from the ATV, Logging trucks, hunters and your joy riders in their jeeps.

The road has a utility company easement and new solar farm ägoing in on the paved portion.

The ATV laws state you Can only drive on a road, no more than 300 feet to the trail system, so the town made the road an access route as its over a mile from one trail to the next.

On this dirt portion of this road are two bridges, one bridge is in such disrepair, emergency vehicle traffic,such as a fire trucks or ambulance can not cross the bridge according to the town manager and fire chief of Rumford

This creates much worry about my an the public safety after crossing the bridge, ofcourse my property is on this side which no ems traffic can reach in case of emergency happenstance.

In my attempt to resolve this,as it is getting worse and serious as no ems vehicle can reach me or anyone after the bridge, so I did some research and asked questions of the town on maintenance, however they declined at two public select board meetings in October 2021.

I was shocked when I found out that the landowners were responsible for maintenance of this well used discontinued road, mile long in distance, leading to the trail system..very well used road yet discontinued.

I went to the town to find out just who they are. This was step one in a road agreement, as the road was becoming unassailable , even driving slow isn't enough after 3000 in front end repair after 3 weeks of traveling this well used discontinued road.

The town manager suggested I read the ordinances, which I surely did.

When you talk about maintenance, one needs to clarify the level of maintenance, which I found in the Town ordinances 25H, stating property owners shall maintain the road at a minimum for emergency vehicles traffic happenstance. This was great as now I had a level of required maintenance by the property owners.

Clearly the road doesn't meet such standards or has it been enforced on the discontinued well used road, I had only been there one month

In this situation as I said its a unique road.

I received two quotes of approximately 30,000 to just control the water and smooth out this well used discontinued road.

I continued with my research of this discontinued well used road, as the abutting property owners are to maintain such, it didn't sound very fair, however I thought I would reach out to my neighbors who owns 500 acres across the street. Hmm those neighbors who own this is the town of Rumford, to include water shed .

Even as owners they declined to offer a dime, stating they logged the property 15 years ago and no longer use it. Therefore they are not following the ordinances for emergency vehicle traffic happenstance, minimum standard. Even though i brought up , it doesn't have exceptions

This road has a multi use easement, with public easement, utilities easement of powerlines which in this case as spelled out in Maine law review page 210 section C . The users are responsible for maintenance , the users are. The general public

Atv funds : ATVs Registration funds, 58% go to the recreation/ associations to maintain trail or access route, however town says no funds, also in the atv laws, there are grants to maintain trails , 500 yearly to landowners abutting such access route, called relation grant, also denied.

Currently I live in my van as my road is nonpassable for emergency vehicle traffic happenstance, and my own vehicle. As well as the legality of getting there. Hôtel and vehicle repair have been costly. So im paying taxes on a road i can't use

Discontinued roads are not discontinued roads. They are simply roads used by the public that the town has decided not to maintain

I also learned that the easement of one should not interfere or infringe the rights of another. One easement shall not impair the access of another.

My homhome owowners ininsurance went up 1000 per year because of no emergency vehicles traffic access.

That's what we have in regards to discontinued roads, an infringement of right of access, interference of easement right of way.

The discontinued roads in Maine are enjoyable, and enjoyed by the public but should not be solely at the landowners expense. We pay our taxes and should be entitled to safe passage to our home without any infringement interference, the lack of maintenance is just that. Makes no sense for the landowners to pay for a public used road, and pay taxes.

Currently I pay taxes, property taxes. I can't enjoy the comfort of knowing that if I called 911 someone would come, I can't enjoy the property without reasonable safe access.

I believe in the testimonials you have received, there is overwhelming evidence that change is needed, asap .

Currently its not in all fairness for any property owners to have to pay for a road used by the public, its needs a resolution an it needs one now.

It's getting cold out.

In resolution.

Appropriation of funds for discontinued roads is needed.

I suggest if you are in a,road association or road maintenance agreement, in order to cover the road, there should be a tax break, perperhaps more would jump onboard to come to an agreement

Those roads not at a minimum level of maintenance should be repaired by the Town, as they are used by the public , brought to a safe standard

Lastly excise tax developed in support of War, still carried in two states. Maine and Massachusetts these funds are supposed to be used for road maintenance now.

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Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone