

Julia M Wade

2/2/2025

1 Pleasant Steet

Castine, ME 04421

Select Board, Town of Freedom

71 Pleasant Street

Freedom, ME 04941

To Whom It May Concern,

I have had the pleasure and luck to grow up roaming the land on Beaver Hill. I have grown up on our family land and continue to enjoy it to its full potential. My time spent on the hill has consisted of walking the trails throughout the property, running my dogs, hunting, sledding and snowshoeing and even picking fiddleheads. I have never seen anyone walking on the old Beaver Hill Road. I have not ever encountered another person on the road when I've been on our land. The Beaver Hill Road runs next to my family's property has been and continues to be impassable by vehicle. I have not seen anyone try to get through that road by vehicle, ATV, or snowmobile. Not only does the road continue to be too overgrown to take a vehicle through, but it is also a difficult road to walk on. It is not maintained. It is overgrown with large trees and it's full of brambles.

I do not believe that the public should be given access to a road that has been unmaintained and essentially private for 80 years. There is no need for strangers to be intruding on my family's land. My family has been very gracious to allow people in the community to walk on our land; many people have asked permission to walk parts of our property. We gladly allow them to continue putting our land to good use. What we do not appreciate is those who assume they have access to our land because they believe that the road, that's been unmaintained and overgrown for the last 80 years, should be public. It is disrespectful to assume rights to a property that you do not own.

I hope that this letter can help to provide some recent contextual history to the situation. I hope that it will help this board see that declaring this road public is likely to just continue the misuse of the nearby land.

Sincerely,

Julia Margaret Wade