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Board denies club's bid to ride on Fox River Trail

Noise from snowmobiles a concern for residents, town supervisors say

By Ed Byrne
Gannett Wisconsin Newspapers

TOWN OF WRIGHTSTOWN — The Town Board denied the request of the Greenleaf Snowmobile Club to use the Fox River Trail from Greenleaf north to Rockland by a 2-1 vote.

The trail runs from Green Bay south to the Brown-Calumet County

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line on an abandoned railroad bed. It is owned by the state Department of Natural Resources and is managed by the Brown County Parks Department.

In an Oct. 11 letter to Town Supervisor Lyle Dequaine, Brown County Parks Director William Dowell said the Brown County Board determines trail use and would only take requests for snowmobile use on trails from town boards.

Snowmobile club spokesman Kevin Leick asked the Town Board to make the request.

"We are asking for one winter's chance to see if it would work," Leick said.

A portion of the trail from Greenleaf south to Calumet County already is approved for snowmobile use.

Leick said recent winters have not been good for snowmobiling. He said trails in southern Brown County were only open for four days last winter. Leick said the club's goal was to have a trail from Greenleaf that would connect with trails in Rockland.

Supervisors noted that the trail south of Greenleaf does not run close to any homes, but several homes are close to the Fox River Trail from Greenleaf north to De Pere, and the noise from snowmobiles at night is a problem for homeowners.

Supervisors Dequaine and Don Wiegand voted against the snowmobile club's request. Town Chairman Bill Verbeten supported it.

— *Ed Byrne is editor of the Wrightstown Post-Gazette.*



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