

Waitsfield Ancient Roads Project  
Road ID 1

Description

This is a road that extends current TH 10 (locally named Floodwoods Rd) to the Moretown line connecting with what is current South Hill Rd which extends into Waitsfield from Moretown.

A road along this approximate route was first laid out in 1803 (See CCGIS record 24); however, this road was discontinued in 1822 (See CCGIS record 74), a time that town historian Richard Bisbee notes corresponds with the first ceding of lots of Northfield. The current road was laid in 1826 (See CCGIS record 84) after which there is no record of it being discontinued. This second road was laid out from what the Skinner Dwelling (the current residence of Rowland Richards Jr. or Toby Richards as he is known by many), and the first 158 rods of the road were laid as a pent road over which as many as three gates or bars could be placed.

Because the current road was laid out over almost the exact same route as the older discontinued road and perhaps also because it was used primarily as a pent road, many people are convinced that this road has or was discontinued. In reality this is not the case and the current right of way has existed since 1826.

Surveyor Glenn Towne and historian Richard Bisbee note that the original road runs within a few feet of the current dwelling of Toby Richards which he then changed to its current place. Also a ledge on the property near the dwelling is referred to in the original surveys of the road. Because of the status of pent road that the right of way has, Toby has the right to construct up to three gates on the way, though it is not clear whether these gates or bars can be locked, as road is a designated public right of way.