



TOWN OF POMFRET, VERMONT

SELECTBOARD

To: The Pomfret Community
From: Town of Pomfret Selectboard
Date: August 16, 2023
Subject: 2023 Foliage Season Traffic Management

I. Introduction

This memorandum summarizes steps the Town of Pomfret will take to manage and ameliorate traffic issues during the 2023 Foliage Season (as defined below) along Cloudland Road (TH #5, and Woodstock TH #44) and Barber Hill Road (TH #5) created primarily by extraordinary tourism interest in private properties.

Foliage season traffic in this area has steadily increased during the last several years, causing significant safety, environmental, aesthetic, and quality of life issues. The steps summarized in this memo are part of a comprehensive effort, in coordination with area residents, to address these issues on the ground, through dialogue with local government partners, and on social and other information media.

The subject of this memo was discussed at the May 3, June 7, June 21, July 19, August 2 and August 16, 2023, Pomfret Selectboard meetings and reflects feedback provided by interested parties. This memo was approved by the Pomfret Selectboard on August 16, 2023.

II. Temporary Traffic Pattern Changes

Road Closures. From Saturday, September 23 through Sunday, October 15, 2023 (the “2023 Foliage Season”), and subject to the exceptions described below:

- Cloudland Road in Pomfret south of Barber Hill Road will be closed to all motor vehicle traffic.
- All of Cloudland Road in Woodstock will be closed to all motor vehicle traffic, as authorized by the Woodstock Select Board at its August 15, 2023 meeting.
- All of Barber Hill Road will be limited to one-way traffic westbound and closed to all eastbound motor vehicle traffic.

For an illustration of the traffic pattern changes described above, see *Attachment 1*.

No Parking Areas. During the 2023 Foliage Season, parking will be prohibited:

- On both sides of Cloudland Road from immediately north of the driveway to 3655 Cloudland Road to immediately south of the driveway to 2763 Cloudland Road.
- On both sides of Barber Hill Road from immediately east of the driveway to 1178 Barber Hill Road to the intersection with Cloudland Road.

Exceptions. Notwithstanding the traffic pattern changes described above, the individuals listed below may continue to travel on Cloudland Road and Barber Hill Road in both directions. These individuals are asked to enter and exit the closure area by the shortest available route and to avoid unnecessary travel through the closure area.

- Cloudland Road, Barber Hill Road, Maxham Road (TH #46) and Orchard Hill (private) residents, their guests, deliveries, contractors and service providers
- All other Pomfret and Woodstock residents, but only within the closure area of their respective town
- Individuals actively engaged in the required agricultural practices, accepted silvicultural practices or forestry operations described in 24 V.S.A. 4413(d)(1)
- Operators of emergency vehicles while responding to emergencies

Authority. The temporary traffic pattern changes described above are authorized by 19 V.S.A. 303, 23 V.S.A. 1010 and Section 8 of the Pomfret Traffic and Parking Ordinance, and were approved by the Pomfret Selectboard on August 16, 2023, and the Woodstock Select Board on August 15, 2023. All other traffic and parking regulations continue to apply except as modified herein.

III. Temporary Signage and Barriers

To alert the traveling public of the traffic pattern changes described above, and as required by Section 8.2 of the Pomfret Traffic and Parking Ordinance, prior to the start of the 2023 Foliage Season, the Pomfret Highway Department will install the signage and barriers described in *Attachment 2*. Signage and barriers within the Town of Woodstock will be placed in coordination with the Woodstock Public Works Department.

During the 2023 Foliage Season, the signage and barriers described in *Attachment 2* will be monitored and replaced by area residents as needed, with timely notice of these activities to the Pomfret Highway Department or Woodstock Public Works Department, as applicable. The signage and barriers will be removed by the Pomfret Highway Department after the 2023 Foliage Season.

IV. Pomfret Highway Department Guidance

The Pomfret Highway Department in its discretion may deviate from the signage and barriers described in *Attachment 2* in order to promote the safety of the traveling public, maintain reasonable levels of service on the existing highway system, and protect the public investment in the existing highway infrastructure.

While area residents will be primarily responsible for monitoring and replacing signage and barriers that are disturbed or removed during the 2023 Foliage Season, the Pomfret Highway Department may remove or relocate signage or barriers at any time in order to protect the traveling public or highway infrastructure.

V. Patrol and Enforcement

The Pomfret Selectboard will ask the Windsor County Sheriff's Department to direct its existing patrols to the closure area during the 2023 Foliage Season, to enforce the temporary traffic pattern changes described above, and to issue warnings or citations as appropriate. Area residents will coordinate directly with the Sheriff's Department to direct these existing patrols within the closure area.

Area residents at their option, sole cost and expense, may also contract with the Sheriff's Department or other licensed traffic control professional for additional patrols during the 2023 Foliage Season. Area residents will provide advance notice to the Pomfret Selectboard and Woodstock Municipal Manager of any such additional patrols.

VI. Communications and Publicity

Copies of this memo will be provided to the individuals and agencies listed in *Attachment 3*. A summary of the temporary traffic pattern changes described above also will be published by the Pomfret Selectboard in at least two public places as required by 19 V.S.A. 1110, in *The Vermont Standard* on or about September 14, 2023, and on the Pomfret and Woodstock list serves on or about September 12 and September 21, then weekly thereafter through October 12, 2023.

The public is asked to direct any questions or concerns as follows:

- **Regarding the policies described in this memo**, to the Pomfret Selectboard (<https://pomfretvt.us/index.php/boar/sel/>) or the Woodstock Municipal Manager (<https://townofwoodstock.org/government/town-manager/>)
- **Regarding town highway conditions, maintenance or damage**, to the Pomfret Highway Department (<https://pomfretvt.us/index.php/dep/highway/>) or the

Woodstock Public Works Department (<https://townofwoodstock.org/departments/public-works/>)

- **Regarding non-emergency law enforcement matters**, to the Windsor County Sheriff's Department (<https://windsorsheriff.org/contact-us>) or the Woodstock Police Department (<https://townofwoodstock.org/departments/emergency-services/>)
- **For Emergencies, Fire or Ambulance, dial 911**

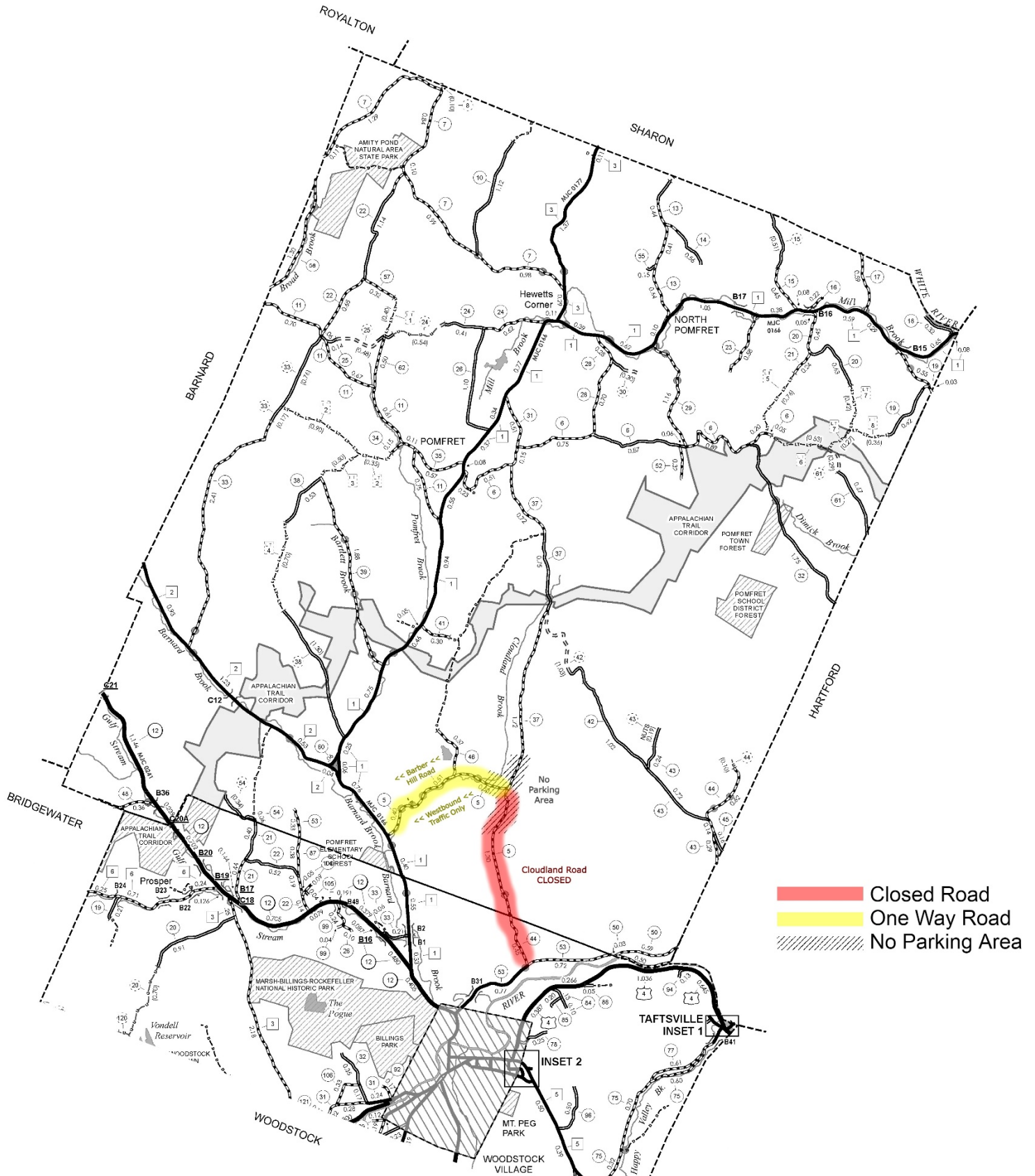
VII. Conclusion

The Pomfret Selectboard recognizes that the traffic pattern changes and other steps summarized in this memo cannot fully address the significant issues created by fall foliage traffic along Cloudland Road and Barber Hill Road. We also appreciate these steps may inconvenience area residents, their guests and others.

Nonetheless, we believe these actions will significantly improve safety and quality of life for residents most severely affected by increased foliage season traffic. We thank the Pomfret and Woodstock communities for their patience and careful adherence to these temporary changes so that they may have their intended effect.

[Remainder of page intentionally blank. Attachments follow.]

ATTACHMENT 1
TEMPORARY TRAFFIC PATTERN CHANGES



ATTACHMENT 2
TEMPORARY SIGNAGE AND BARRIERS

Cloudland Road in Woodstock (Woodstock TH #44)

(mileage measured north from the intersection with Old River Road (Woodstock TH #53))

- **0.01 miles** (end of paved surface) –
 - “Road Closed (local residents only)” on both sides facing south
 - Two eight-foot barricades or reflective barrels narrowing travelled way but still allowing local and emergency vehicular traffic to pass

Cloudland Road in Pomfret (TH #5)

(mileage measured north from the Woodstock town line)

- **0.00 miles** (immediately north of the Woodstock town line) –
 - “Road Closed (local residents only)” on both sides facing south
 - Two eight-foot barricades or reflective barrels narrowing travelled way but still allowing local and emergency vehicular traffic to pass
- **0.22 miles** (immediately north of the driveway to 4169 Cloudland Road) – “Road Closed (local residents only)” on both sides facing south
- **0.76 miles to 1.59 miles** (from immediately north of the driveway to 3655 Cloudland Road to immediately south of the driveway to 2763 Cloudland Road) at regular intervals – “No Parking, Stopping or Standing” on both sides facing both directions
- **1.10 miles** (immediately south of the driveway to 3281 Cloudland Road) – “Road Closed (local residents only)” on both sides facing north
- **1.21 miles** (immediately south of Barber Hill Road) –
 - “Road Closed (local residents only)” on both sides facing north
 - “Detour” on southbound side directing traffic onto Barber Hill Road
 - Two reflective barrels narrowing travelled way but still allowing local and emergency vehicular traffic to pass
- **3.24 miles** (immediately south of Cloudland Farm restaurant driveway) – “Road Closed Ahead (local residents only)” on both sides facing north
- **4.35 miles** (immediately south of Galaxy Hill Road) –
 - “Road Closed Ahead (local residents only)” on both sides facing north
 - Two reflective barrels narrowing travelled way but still allowing local and emergency vehicular traffic to pass

Barber Hill Road (TH #5)

(mileage measured east from the intersection with Pomfret Road (TH #1))

- **0.00 miles** (in the “wye” east of Pomfret Road) – “Detour” directing westbound Barber Hill Road traffic to turn left (south) onto Pomfret Road
- **0.01 miles** (immediately east of the “wye” east of Pomfret Road) –
 - “Road Closed (local residents only)” on both sides facing west
 - Two reflective barrels narrowing travelled way but still allowing local and emergency vehicular traffic to pass, and other traffic to reverse direction around the “wye”
- **0.89 miles** (immediately north of Maxham Road (TH #46)) –
 - “Road Closed (local residents only)” on both sides facing west
 - Two reflective barrels narrowing travelled way but still allowing local and emergency vehicular traffic to pass, and other traffic to reverse direction in the Maxham Road intersection
- **1.18 miles to 1.41 miles** (from immediately east of the driveway to 1178 Barber Hill Road to the intersection with Cloudland Road) at regular intervals – “No Parking, Stopping or Standing” on both sides facing both directions
- **1.41 miles** (immediately west of Cloudland Road) – Reflective barrels as needed to eliminate space for parking

ATTACHMENT 3
NOTIFICATION LIST

Cloudland Road residents in Pomfret

[on file]

Cloudland Road residents in Woodstock

Via Eric Duffy, Municipal Manager,
eduffy@townofwoodstock.org

Barber Hill Road residents

[on file]

Maxham Road residents

[on file]

Orchard Hill residents

[on file]

Pomfret Highway Department

Jim Potter, Road Foreman,
jim.potter@pomfretvt.us

Pomfret-Teago Volunteer Fire Department

Kevin Rice, Chief, kricevt@gmail.com

Pomfret FAST Squad

Frank Perron, Head of Service,
frank@frankperron.com

Woodstock Select Board

Via Eric Duffy, Municipal Manager,
eduffy@townofwoodstock.org

Woodstock Public Works

Via Eric Duffy, Municipal Manager,
eduffy@townofwoodstock.org

Woodstock Police

Via Eric Duffy, Municipal Manager,
eduffy@townofwoodstock.org

Woodstock Fire/EMS

Via Eric Duffy, Municipal Manager,
eduffy@townofwoodstock.org

Windsor County Sheriff's Department

Ryan Palmer, Sheriff,
ryan.palmer@vermont.gov

Vermont State Police

Lt. Hugh O'Donnell, Royalton Barracks
Commander, hugh.odonnell@vermont.gov

Vermont Agency of Transportation

Shauna Clifford, District 4 Administrator,
shauna.clifford@vermont.gov

Chris Bump, District 4 Project Manager,
chris.bump@vermont.gov

U.S. Forest Service

Chris Mattrick, District Ranger,
christopher.mattrick@usda.gov

Appalachian Trail Conservancy

Ilana Copel, icopel@appalachiantrail.org

Green Mountain Club

Emily Mosher,
gmc@greenmountainclub.org