



Vermont Mountain Bike Association

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Questions to Ask Trail Builders Interested in Your Land

1. **Are you affiliated with VMBA?** The association isn't the only way to trails on your land, but you can rest assured that if a VMBA chapter approaches you, you are covered by VMBA's insurance. The chapter also has access to agreements that will assist in articulating the roles and responsibilities of the chapter as they build trails on your land. The chapter will also have documents that cover:
 - a. Landowner Liability
 - b. VMBA's insurance
 - c. Act 250 clarification
 - d. Access agreements
2. **Do you plan to host any public events on my land?** VMBA's insurance covers events, but understanding *how* they plan to use your trails is an important factor in your decision. VMBA's insurance does not cover races of any kind.
3. **To map or not to map?** In some instances, maps will increase rider traffic, but not always. In some cases chapters keep maps exclusive to their members. Mapping is a great way to share your land with the public and supports you playing a more active role in defining the type of trail constructed by the chapter. If your land has a beautiful overlook, it may be a good idea to have family friendly trails. If the terrain is rugged and technical trails can be constructed that's fine too.
4. **How will we communicate about building, alterations and reroutes?** Asking that the chapter routinely communicate with you is critical. It is suggested that an annual trail plan be discussed every spring as a minimum level of communication.
5. **Where else have you built trails?** Learning about how chapters approach relationships with other landowners is a great way to learn how they will work with you in the future. Ask for references.
6. **If I agree to let you build and I change my mind someday, what happens?** In all cases a landowner's prerogative rules. However, the association strongly encourages landowners to carefully consider partnering with chapters. The energy required to build trails is a sizable investment for them. To lose that investment is a major hit. In some cases your property could be the link between other networks and losing access to your land could be particularly challenging.

7. **Where will everyone park?** It is rare that there will ever be “on trail issues.” It is key to get an assurance from the chapter that they will play an active role in reaching out to riders about parking. Landowners are also encouraged to get an assurance that the chapter will assist in keeping the area clean and consider constructing a kiosk at the trailhead to help direct and educate riders of the area.
8. **What if I want to log my land?** Again, the landowner’s prerogative rules. It is very helpful that your forestry plan be shared with the chapter. With this knowledge chapters can build with the future in mind and support your preferences.
9. **Can I temporarily close the trails at some point?** Trail closures are tough mid-season in general. If closures are shared well in advance, the chapter can share this content with its members – keep in mind, not every rider is a member. A random rider that missed the closure notice may show up. This is another great reason for hosting a kiosk at the trailhead.