VAST Snowmobile Request for Berlin Town Forest – 01/20/2021

Current VAST Trail Map (https://vtvast.org/trails.html)
Parking and Access to Berlin Town Forest
Berlin Town Forests
Shared and Non-Motorized Trails

- Darling Trail – Historic Road, Berlin has ROW; Main trail from parking lot and most heavily used trail for pedestrians
- Ridge Trail – built as direct access road to Cell Towers, repurposed as rec trail, does not follow current best practices for recreational trails; multiple steep pitches that are heavily eroded, no longer passable by street vehicles; only trail to top of Irish Hill
- VAST Proposal vs non-motorized trails
- Darling Trail - New non-motorized trails
New Trail

- Not existing trail on ridge pass Cell tower
- Has not been flagged or walked yet – would use in part abandoned logging roads
- Environmentally
  - Area designated by state as significant natural community
  - Ledges – Recommendation Snowmobile trails should be at least 300 feet from broken ledge and talus that provides concealment cover for wildlife
  - Interior Forest Block - Snowmobile trails along the edge of interior forests may be compatible. Trails that bisect or enter the interior of these habitats should be avoided.
- Vermont Town Forest Recreation Planning: Natural Resource Guide (UVM, VT FPR, VT U&C F)
VAST Best Practices for the Development of Snowmobile Trails suggests using ANR maps for trail planning

- Landmarks: Pond, parking lot, ridge
- Watershed for Berlin Pond
- “core forests,” and defined as being at least 100 meters from the nearest human infrastructure or development,
- Significant Natural Community - “Significant” natural communities are those sites that are both uncommon and in generally good condition.
- Key: wetland, r/t/e plants and animals
- Darling Trail passes through a mapped wetland
- New Trail: natural community, ledges
Separate Trail Issues