

Brad Solon
Building Official
Development Service Center
City of Rapid City

RE: Proposed named change existing Sammis Trail to Moon Meadows Drive

As we discussed earlier, regarding my concerns on the issue of the Sammis Trail name change. Briefly, the Sammis Trail was an original wagon train roadway from the Deadwood area to as far as Chadron Nebraska. This includes the travel path of the ridgeline of which Moon Meadows Road traverses.

A number of years ago, a lawsuit ensued against Pennington County in which one landowner sought to remove the existing right of ways; which, as noted above, the existing Sammis Trail was a large part of. Needless to say, based upon public right of way precedence, the court found in favor of the county and, found that Sammis Trail was a historical and public right of way and, still is, a public right of way. This existing right of way includes the area east of high way 16 now at issue.

Two important questions are. First, essentially a legal one where, based upon established public right of way law and the court's decision; should the city really be looking at renaming Moon Meadows to Sammis Trail instead of what is currently proposed?

Our recommendation is this. 1) If any changes are to be made, change Moon Meadows to Sammis Trail following suit the city has done in its naming of Catron Boulevard on each side of highway 16 (clearly, Catron Boulevard winds just as Sammis Trail does); 2) That "Sammis Trail" retain its existing public right of way name and retain its existing public pathway that has existed for more than one hundred years rather than cutting it off at the knees to exist west of highway 16, skip a couple of miles, then commence again east to highway 79; and 3) As the area develops, name the road currently proposed by the city's street plan which travels east of existing Sammis Trail to highway 79 with another name keeping to the pathway from which Sammis Trail exists.

Thank you for your consideration regarding this important matter.

Sincerely,

Ross Johnson
Fern Johnson
1450 Sammis Trail
Rapid City, SD 57702