Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire
Rail Trails Advisory Committee (RTAC)
Meeting Minutes – February 13, 2025
Whitcomb Hall, Main Street, Swanzey, NH

CALL TO ORDER:
The meeting of the Swanzey Rail Trails Advisory Committee (RTAC) was called to order at 6:02 pm by Chair Mike Kowalczyk. The meeting was held at Whitcomb Hall.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Mike Kowalczyk, Alan Gross, Cindy Kordys
ABSENT: Bruce Bohannon
OTHERS PRESENT:

MINUTES:
The Minutes of December 5, 2024 were considered. **Motion** was made by Gross to approve the minutes of December 5, 2024. There was a second by Kowalczyk and no further discussion. All were in favor. **Motion passed**.

PUBLIC INPUT: None

OLD BUSINESS:

Funding
Swanzey RTP Grant Update – Kowalczyk reported that the grant was awarded but funding is unknown due to uncertainty in Washington. We should know by June or July 2025. Surface work on the Cheshire RT will be done by DPW.

MAST Grant—Matthews Road Crossings – Grant was awarded and will be implemented this year.

Monthly Cleanup Events/Maintenance Strategy
Ashuelot River Truss Bridge (located south of Sawyers Crossing Road) – status of the cleanup of the leftover lumber is unknown.

Ash Swamp Brook Bridge (located near Riley Conservation Area) -- Jeremy Evans asked RTAC to purchase lumber at a cost of $3,000 to complete additional work to the bridge. **Motion** was made by Kowalczyk to use RTAC funds to pay $3,000 for the lumber. There was a second by Gross and all were in favor. ***Motion passed.***

Benches – Gross reported that he was looking into the placement of benches on both the Ashuelot RT (2 benches by the river) and Cheshire RT (by the Swanzey/Marlborough town line). A bench costs approx. $100 at Hamshaw Lumber. Gross will inquire with Hamshaw about donating the bench and any necessary materials.

Ashuelot RT Washout Status
Fix the two most northern washouts -- Jeremy Evans expects to complete the work this year.

Remaining 5 Washouts on Ashuelot RT
Holbrook to Holbrook Washouts will be TAP Grant funded and the TAP Grant process requires an engineering study. The engineering study was developed by Hoyle Tanner. The committee reviewed the study and accepted it as submitted. Kowalczyk will ask Stephon Mehu, Assistant Town Planner, to provide monthly updates.

Eversource Washout (by substation) – In 2026, the existing Christian Hill Bridge will be re-used to repair that washout.

Ashuelot RT Detour Signs – Gross obtained a quote from Jack of All Blades for signs and posts with a cost of $1,872. **Motion** was made by Gross to pay Jack of All Blades $1,872 for the signs and posts. There was a second by Kowalczyk and all were in favor. ***Motion passed.***
Action Item: Kowalczyk will follow up with Joe DiRusso, DPW about ordering the signs.

Promotional and Outreach
Brochure/Rack Card inventory update status – No update.
Outreach – No update
2025 Bike Event -- May is Bike Month so the event may occur in May 2025 on the Ashuelot RT starting at Krif Road and heading south.

Other
Westmoreland, Surry, Marlborough and Troy – Westmoreland and Surry sections are done. Surry section has hard pack material. Marlborough's 2.5 mile section is a work in progress. Troy section work will begin this year. Cheshire RT section from the Keene dump to Molly Grant may begin this year with the help of an American Trails grant.
Regional Map -- Kowalczyk has been working with the Monadnock Conservancy and Southwest Region Planning Commission (SWRPC) on a 2 sided map project which will show regional rail trails and parking lots, as well as mountain biking and hiking trails on one side and the City of Keene trails on the other side. The map should be ready to publish by March 2025 and would be on waterproof paper. Both hardcopy and pdf versions will be available. Hardcopy version would be in bike shops for a small charge to help defray the printing costs. References to the TrailLink and AllTrails apps may be included.
State Rail Trail Funding Bill Status SB-274-FN – Bill is for rail trail funding and is Phase 1 in the implementation of the NH State Rail Trail Plan. The February 11th NH Senate Transportation Committee public hearing went well.

Next Meeting: March 6, 2025

ADJOURNMENT
Motion was made by Kowalczyk to adjourn the meeting. There was a second by Kordys and no further discussion. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Kordys