Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire
Rail Trails Advisory Committee (RTAC)
Meeting Minutes – March 6, 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 6:04 pm by Chair Mike Kowalczyk. The meeting was held at Whitcomb Hall.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Mike Kowalczyk, Bruce Bohannon, Alan Gross, Cindy Kordys
ABSENT: Stephon Mehu
OTHERS PRESENT: Rob Hart (will join RTAC as an alternate member)

MINUTES:
The Minutes of February 13, 2025 were considered. **Motion** was made by Bohannon to approve the minutes of February 13, 2025. There was a second by Gross 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 has to be approved by the Governor's Council. Surface work on the Cheshire RT (from Joslin Station Road to Seventh Day Adventist Church) will be done by DPW.

MAST Grant—Matthews Road Crossings – Grant was awarded and will be implemented this year. DPW will install the crossing signs.

Monthly Cleanup Events/Maintenance Strategy
Ashuelot River Truss Bridge (located south of Sawyers Crossing Road) – Jeremy Evans removed the leftover lumber.

Ash Swamp Brook Bridge (located near Riley Conservation Area) -- RTAC approved the purchase of the lumber at a cost of $3,000. The Keene Sno-Riders were informed and will do the work this year.

Benches – No update.

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 developed by Hoyle Tanner was accepted as submitted by

RTAC. NH DOT will pay 80% of the cost. The Swanzey Board of Selectmen approved the 20% matching funds.

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

Ashuelot RT Detour Signs – Joe DiRusso, DPW will order the signs and install them as soon as the ground thaws.

Promotional and Outreach

Brochure/Rack Card inventory update status – Kordys reported that the brochure supply is low. Gem Graphics needs 7 to 10 business days to print another order.

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 Rail Trail Map Availability -- 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 was sent to the printer today, and it will be printed on waterproof paper. Both hardcopy and pdf versions will be available. Bike shops will have the hardcopy version at a cost of $2.

State Rail Trail Funding Bill Status SB-274-FN – Bill passed the NH Senate Transportation Committee but funding was reduced from $7.2 million to $500,000. The bill will be considered by the NH Senate Finance Committee with mention that the rail trails generate revenue via tourism.

Town Election Day is March 11th -- Article 9 on the Town Ballot contains a line item for rail trail funding of $10,000

Next Meeting: April 10, 2025

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Bohannon to adjourn the meeting. There was a second by Kordys and no further discussion. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Kordys