Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire
Rail Trails Advisory Committee (RTAC)
Meeting Minutes – July 10, 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 6:03 pm by Chair Mike Kowalczyk. The meeting was held at Whitcomb Hall.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Mike Kowalczyk, Bruce Bohannon, Alan Gross, Cindy Kordys, Rob Hart
ABSENT: Stephon Mehu, Assistant Town Planner
OTHERS PRESENT: None

MINUTES:
The Minutes of June 5, 2025 were considered. **Motion** was made by Bohannon to approve the minutes of June 5, 2025. There was a second by Kowalczyk and no further discussion. All were in favor. **Motion passed**.

PUBLIC INPUT: None

OLD BUSINESS:
Ashuelot RT Washout Status
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. Work to be done in 2027. Further updates will be provided by Mehu.

Eversource Washout (by substation) – NH DOT is committed to completing the entire project starting in 2026. The town is responsible for 20% of the engineering costs. Further updates will be provided by Mehu.

Funding
Swanzey RTP Grant Update – Kowlaczyk reported that the Governor's Council approved the grant. Swanzey DPW will do the work.

MAST Grant—Matthews Road Crossings – The estimated cost of the project is $74,000. The 2024 RTAC $10,000 warrant will pay for part of the project. DPW will install the crossing signs in 2025. Further updates will be provided by Mehu.

Monthly Cleanup Events/Maintenance Strategy
Ashuelot River Truss Bridge (located south of Sawyers Crossing Road) – Leftover lumber. Bohannon reported that the snowmobile club needs to finish the railing then DPW will clean up the remaining lumber.

Benches – Kowalczyk reported that Bob McClure, who made the benches for Mt. Caesar, completed and installed 2 benches by the Riley Conservation Area.

Ashuelot RT Maintenance – 3 Rusted Culverts (south of Riley Conservation Area) – Kowalczyk reported that the Bureau of Trails Special Use Permit has not been completed and the NHDES Shoreland Permit By Notification application and permit fee was submitted by Mehu.

Promotional and Outreach

Brochure/Rack Card inventory update status – Kordys reported that the order for 1,000 brochures was placed with Gem Graphics and she picked up the order.

Promotional Brochure design status – Bohannon reported that he met with Larry recently. Larry is working on some changes which include a new picture, adjusting the mileage figures and adding the ART detour detail to the map.

Business Contacts – Outreach -- Kordys reported she emailed rail trail updates to the 2 bike shops in Keene, a local campground and a local bed and breakfast.

2025 Bike Event – Possibly later this year on the CRT.

Swanzey Old Home Day – scheduled for July 19th. Gross registered RTAC for the parade. RTAC booth will be in the gazebo next to the town hall.

Other

Cheshire RT – Kowalczyk mowed

Ashuelot RT – Bohannon mowed to Sawyers Crossing

Westmoreland, Surry, Marlborough,Troy,Fitzwilliam,Hinsdale – Westmoreland section had surface work done. Surry stone cut section needs a culvert due to washouts. Marlborough's 2.5 mile section is a work in progress and some ditch clearing was done. Marlborough/Troy work has started with mowing and tree removal. A RTP Grant is possible for Fitzwilliam and the Fort Hill area in Hinsdale. An American Trail Grant was awarded to Keene with work to begin in July on CRT from Eastern Ave to Route 101.

State Rail Trail Funding Bill Status SB-274-FN – Bill passed the NH Senate Transportation & Finance Committees but no funding available.

Tour de NH – sponsored by The Bike Walk Alliance in May was rained out; Might do in Oct. 2025

Monadnock Rail Trail Challenge – work in progress. Website www.monadnocknh.com/visits/passports

Swanzey Factory Road Bridge – Keene DPW is helping to organize a Community capital campaign for the project and work on a site diagram. Might use Island Street bridge.

2025 Warrant $10,000 passed – there was discussion on where and how to use

Next Meeting: August 14, 2025

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Bohannon to adjourn the meeting. There was a second by Kowalczyk and no further discussion. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Kordys