Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire
Rail Trails Advisory Committee (RTAC)
Meeting Minutes – December 11, 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, Bruce Bohannon, Rob Hart, Cindy Kordys
ABSENT: Alan Gross and Stephon Mehu, Assistant Town Planner
OTHERS PRESENT: John and Liz Traynor

MINUTES:
The Minutes of November 6, 2025 were considered. **Motion** was made by Bohannon to approve the minutes of November 6, 2025. There was a second by Hart and no further discussion. All were in favor. **Motion passed**.

PUBLIC INPUT: John and Liz Traynor spoke about the Christian Hill Bridge Project. They are circulating a petition to save the bridge instead of having it reused for the Eversource Washout (by the substation).

OLD BUSINESS:
Ashuelot RT Washout Status
Remaining 5 Washouts on Ashuelot RT
Holbrook to Holbrook Washouts will be TAP Grant funded and the work to be done in 2027. No new information. Further updates will be provided by Mehu.
Eversource Washout (by substation) – NH DOT is committed to completing the entire project starting in 2026 as part of the Christian Hill Bridge Project. No new information. Further updates will be provided by Mehu.

Funding
Cheshire Rail Trail Swanzey RTP Grant Update – Kowalczyk reported that Swanzey DPW completed the work, and the trail looks great.
MAST Grant—Matthews Road Crossings – The 2024 and 2025 RTAC warrants of $10,000 each will be used to pay for part of the project. 4 pairs of crossing signs will be installed and the project is moved to 2026. Further updates will be provided by Mehu.

Monthly Cleanup Events/Maintenance Strategy
Ashuelot RT Maintenance – 3 Rusted Culverts (south of Riley Conservation Area) – Kowalczyk reported that Joe DiRusso, DPW looked at the culverts and provided a cost estimate of $6,500 for three 15' x 20"culverts. There was discussion to use $3,000 previously designated Ash Brook Swamp Bridge redecking material funds for the culver repair project. **Motion** was made by Bohannon to repurpose the $3,000 from the Ash Brook Swamp Bridge redecking project to fix the 3 rusted culverts and encumber the $3,000 into the 2026 RTAC budget. There was a second by Kowalczyk and no further discussion. All were in favor. **Motion passed**.

Mowing on both ART and CRT– 2026 Contract
Kowalczyk will ask DPW if they will do 2 mowings and leaf blowing and provide a cost estimate.

Budget
Current Budget Status – There is $5,800 left in the operating budget. There was discussion about how to use the funds.
Ashuelot Swamp Bridge Redecking Material: Approx. lumber cost $4,050; $3,000 was approved by the committee in February 2025 but the Sno Riders snowmobile club will not be doing the project in 2025. The club will do the project in 2026 with GIA funds. After a discussion, the committee agreed to reallocate the $3,000 to the Ashuelot RT culvert project. See Ashuelot RT Maintenance.
Three 15" x 20" Culverts (approx. $1,000) and Trail Signage (approx. $60/sign): The committee agreed to use the remaining $2,800 for the ART culvert project, to purchase signs and encumber the funds into the 2026 RTAC budget. C & S Wholesale Grocers plans to donate 30 Stop and Stop Ahead signs for both trails.

Promotional and Outreach
Promotional Brochure design status – Bohannon reported that the updated brochure is done and ready for the next brochure order.
Business Contacts – Outreach -- No update

Other
New Swanzey 2026 Project Proposal—Finish Ashuelot RT in Westport – S. Holbrook Ave to Route 10 – Project consists of 1.3 miles of ART. Proposed work includes mowing and removing the grass from the trail then laying hardpack material. Total project cost $30-35,000. Kowalczyk presented the idea and recommended using RTP to fund it. The committee discussed the project and is in favor of it. Project will be reviewed in Spring 2026.
Swanzey Factory Road Bridge – Kowalczyk reported that the bridge is not on anyone's plan.
AI Meeting Notes: Kordys will contact Henry Underwood about using Otter.ai
Swanzey Uncovered article was submitted by Kowalczyk
RTAC Meeting 1st Thursday of every month starting at 6:00 pm, Whitcomb Hall –
Next Meeting Date: January 8, 2026

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 7:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Kordys
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