Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire
Rail Trails Advisory Committee (RTAC)
Meeting Minutes – June 5, 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 6:01 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, Josif Bicja, Hoyle Tanner
ABSENT: Stephon Mehu, Assistant Town Planner
OTHERS PRESENT: None

MINUTES:
The Minutes of May 1, 2025 were considered. **Motion** was made by Bohannon to approve the minutes of May 1, 2025. There was a second by Kordys and no further discussion. All were in favor. **Motion passed**.

PUBLIC INPUT: None

OLD BUSINESS:
Ashuelot RT Washout Status
Fix the two most northern washouts -- Jeremy Evans and members of the snowmobile club completed the work in May. Everything looks great.

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.

Eversource Washout (by substation) – Josif Bicja of Hoyle Tanner gave details about the project. In September or October 2025, the existing Christian Hill Road Bridge (eligible for the National Register of Historic Places) will be removed from its current location and re-used to repair that washout. The bridge removal costs will be 100% federally funded. Bicja said some of the granite block abutments and bridge timbers can be re-used. A detailed evaluation of the site will be done including a soil assessment, trail width, bore holes, live load carrying capacity and bridge decking. NH DOT is committed to completing the entire project starting in 2026. The town is responsible for 20% of the engineering costs.

Ashuelot RT Detour Signs – DPW installed the signs and they look great.

Funding
Swanzey RTP Grant Update – Kowlaczyk reported that we are waiting for approval from the Governor's Council. Expect to hear in June or July.

MAST Grant—Matthews Road Crossings – DPW will install the crossing signs. No update. Further updates will be provided by Mehu.

Monthly Cleanup Events/Maintenance Strategy
Ashuelot River Truss Bridge (located south of Sawyers Crossing Road) – DPW will clean up the leftover lumber.

Benches – Kowalczyk and Gross scouted locations for the benches on the Ashuelot RT and Cheshire RT. Bob McClure, who made the benches for Mt. Caesar, has completed 3 benches.

Ashuelot RT Maintenance – 3 Rusted Culverts (south of Riley Conservation Area) – Kowalczyk reported that the Bureau of Trails Special Use Permit was submitted to the Bureau of Trails 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 brochure supply is low. Riley Conservation Area and Cresson Bridge (Sawyers Crossing) need to be restocked.
Promotional Brochure design status – Bohannon reported that he met with Larry. They discussed changing a picture, adjusting the mileage figures and adding the ART detour detail to the map. The changes will take additional time so best to order more of the current brochure version. **Motion** was made by Gross to use RTAC funds not to exceed $500 for an order of 1,000 brochures. There was a second by Kowalczyk and all were in favor. **Motion passed. Action Item**: Kordys to contact Gem Graphics for a quote and place the brochure order.

2025 Bike Event – Possibly later this year on the CRT.
Swanzey Old Home Day – scheduled for July 19th. Gross will register RTAC for the parade. RTAC booth will be in gazebo next to the town hall.

Other
Westmoreland, Surry, Marlborough,Troy,Fitzwilliam,Hinsdale – Westmoreland section had surface work done. Surry section had a washout fixed. Marlborough's 2.5 mile section is a work in progress and some ditch clearing was done. Marlborough/Troy work will begin in July or August with tree removal. A RTP Grant is being considered 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 Committee and NH Senate Finance Committee but funding was reduced to $1. The bill is now tabled.
Tour de NH – sponsored by The Bike Walk Alliance on May 31st was rained out
Monadnock Rail Trail Challenge – work in progress
Swanzey Factory Road Bridge – Keene DPW is helping to organize a Community capital campaign for the project and work on a site diagram.

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

Next Meeting: July 10, 2025

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Bohannon to adjourn the meeting. There was a second by Gross and no further discussion. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Kordys