Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire
Rail Trails Advisory Committee (RTAC)
Meeting Minutes – November 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 6:02 pm by Chair Mike Kowalczyk. The meeting was held at Whitcomb Hall.

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

MINUTES:
The Minutes of October 2, 2025 were considered. **Motion** was made by Hart to approve the minutes of October 2, 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 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 is nearly done. The trail is looking 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. Next week's MAST meeting will determine if 3 or 4 pairs of crossing signs will be installed. Further updates will be provided by Mehu.

Monthly Cleanup Events/Maintenance Strategy
Ashuelot River Truss Bridge (located south of Sawyers Crossing Road) – DPW cleaned up the scrap lumber.
Ashuelot RT Maintenance – 3 Rusted Culverts (south of Riley Conservation Area) – Kowalczyk reported that next week Joe DiRusso, DPW will look at the culverts and provide an estimate.

RT Mowing – 2026 Contract
Kowalczyk will ask DPW if they will do the mowing 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. cost $4,050; $3,000 was approved by the committee in February 2025. Reimbursable. After a discussion, the committee agreed to keep the amount at $3,000.

Three 15" x 20" Culverts (approx. $1,000) and Trail Signage (approx. $50/sign): After we receive Joe DiRusso's culvert estimate, the committee agreed to use the remaining funds to purchase signs. At the December meeting, Kowalczyk will review sign designs and locations. **Action Item**: **Kowalczyk will send the NHBOT sign specifications to the committee.**

Promotional and Outreach

Promotional Brochure design status – Bohannon reported that he has the updated brochure file. The committee reviewed the updated brochure. Kowalczyk questioned the Transportation Alternative Program paragraph. **Action Item**: **Kowalczyk will propose a new paragraph to the committee.**

Business Contacts – Outreach -- No update

2025 Bike Event – Cancelled for 2025. Mehu will work on in 2026.

Other

New Swanzey 2026 Project Proposal—Finish Ashuelot RT in Westport – 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.

North Troy – Kowalczyk reported that the project has been completed.

Monadnock Rail Trail Challenge – Kowalczyk reported that there were 235 registered users and 156 check-ins throughout the region.

Swanzey Factory Road Bridge – Kowalczyk reported that according to Don Lussier, the bridge is not on anyone's plan.

AI Meeting Notes: No update

Swanzey Uncovered due to Katie Collins on November 20th. Anyone willing to write the article? – No volunteers.

Kiosk Map – Kowalczyk explained the regional rail trail kiosk map.

RTAC Meeting 1st Thursday of every month starting at 6:00 pm, Whitcomb Hall – Kowalczyk is out of town on December 4th so the committee agreed to move the meeting to December 11th.

Next Meeting Dates: December 11, 2025

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Hart to adjourn the meeting. There was a second by Bohannon and no further discussion. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Kordys

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