Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire
Rail Trails Advisory Committee (RTAC)
Meeting Minutes – October 2, 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 6:10 pm by Chair Mike Kowalczyk. The meeting was held at Whitcomb Hall.

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

MINUTES:
The Minutes of July 10, 2025 were reconsidered and the minutes of August 14, 2025 were considered. **Motion** was made by Hart to approve the minutes of July 10, 2025 and the minutes of August 14, 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
Remaining 5 Washouts on Ashuelot RT
Holbrook to Holbrook Washouts will be TAP Grant funded and the work to be done in 2027. Kowalczyk reported that Hoyle Tanner is collecting information to advance the design and move the project forward per September 23rd email. 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. Mehu reported that Hoyle Tanner completed the field work and is working with NH DOT to do the drill borings for the bridge foundations. Only a few of the original bridge beams are in good condition. Further updates will be provided by Mehu.

Funding
Cheshire Rail Trail Swanzey RTP Grant Update – Kowalczyk reported that today Joe DiRusso, Swanzey DPW started laying the material beginning at Joslin Station Road headed south. Hunter Hough completed the brush hogging from Joslin Station Road to the storage unit place.

MAST Grant—Matthews Road Crossings – Mehu reported that the estimated cost of the project is $58,000. The 2024 RTAC $10,000 warrant will pay for part of the project. DPW will install the crossing signs in 2025. Since the project quote came in lower, an additional pair of crossing signs can be added with DOT approval. **Motion** was made by Kowalczyk to expend up to $4,500 to cover the additional project cost. There was a second by Hart and no further discussion. All were in favor. **Motion passed**. Further updates will be provided by Mehu.

Monthly Cleanup Events/Maintenance Strategy
Ashuelot River Truss Bridge (located south of Sawyers Crossing Road) – Lumber was cleaned up.

Ashuelot RT Maintenance – 3 Rusted Culverts (south of Riley Conservation Area) – Mehu reported that the Bureau of Trails Special Use Permit and the NHDES Shoreland Permit By Notification were submitted to the state and he is developing a work plan.

Budget
Current Budget Status – As of July 31st, there is $5,127.64 left in the operating budget. There was discussion about how to use the funds.
CIP Form – RTAC agreed to the submission of $10,000 in CIP annually. **Action Item**: Kowalczyk will contact Adam with the RTAC recommendation.

Promotional and Outreach
Promotional Brochure design status – No update
Business Contacts – Outreach -- Kordys reported some trail users gave good feedback about the completed trail work.
2025 Bike Event – Mehu will work on in 2026.

Other
New Swanzey 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. Bohannon suggested that Swanzey DPW do the work to cover the match. No objection to the idea. The RTP grant application opens in March 2026. If approved, work could begin in 2027.
Westmoreland, Surry, Marlborough,Troy,Fitzwilliam,Hinsdale – Kowalczyk reported that work is progressing on a project from the Troy/Marlborough town line to Troy Depot. Project is managed by Cheshire County. The North Keene project from Amy Brown to the Keene transfer station has been completed.
Tour de NH – deferred to 2026
Monadnock Rail Trail Challenge – Kowalczyk provided an update. He reported that there were 100+ check-ins throughout the region. NH Chronicle will have a segment about rail trails.
Swanzey Factory Road Bridge – Kowalczyk reported that he is working with Suzanne Bansley to raise money for the project. Possible bike event in Spring 2026.
2025 Warrant $10,000 passed – there was discussion on using it towards the Matthews Road crossing signs

Next Meeting Dates: November 6, 2025 and December 11, 2025

ADJOURNMENT
Motion was made by Kowalczyk to adjourn the meeting. There was a second by Hart and no further discussion. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Kordys
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