Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire
Rail Trails Advisory Committee (RTAC)
Meeting Minutes – February 5, 2026
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, Rob Hart, and Cindy Kordys
ABSENT: Alan Gross and Stephon Mehu, Assistant Town Planner
OTHERS PRESENT: None

MINUTES:
The Minutes of January 8, 2026 were considered. **Motion** was made by Hart to approve the minutes of January 8, 2026. There was a second by Bohannon 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
Ashuelot Rail Trail Swanzey RTP Grant – Kowalczyk reported that Mehu will write a grant for two sections of the ART. First section is 900 feet of the trail from the Eversource substation to the N. Holbrook Ave crossing. The second section is 1.3 miles from the S. Holbrook Ave crossing to Route 10. Joe DiRusso, DPW, agreed to do the work.
MAST Grant—Matthews Road Crossings – Four pairs of crossing signs will be installed and the work will be done in 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 Swanzey DPW completed the culvert repair project in December 2025 and will do some cleanup work in Spring 2026.

Mowing and Leaf Blowing on both Ashuelot RT and Cheshire RT
Bohannon reported that he will mow the ART twice and the CRT once. Kowalczyk will ask DPW if they will do leaf blowing in late November 2026 and provide a cost estimate. Alternative is to contract it out.

Renting an excavator for canopy mowing was discussed. Last year, the rental was done through Milton Rentals and they provided great service.

Budget

Current Budget Status – The 2025 RTAC operating budget was $7,400 and the balance is $0. The 2026 RTAC budget is $6,786.

Trail Signage (approx. $60/sign): The committee agreed 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 – Updated brochure is done and ready for the next brochure order.

Business Contacts – Outreach – No update

Other

AI Meeting Notes: Kordys spoke with Henry Underwood about using Otter.ai which works well when used in a Zoom meeting. He didn't know how it would work with a live meeting. Bohannon will be attending a live meeting where AI will be used for the minutes. He will report at the next meeting.

RTAC Meeting 1st Thursday of every month starting at 6:00 pm, Whitcomb Hall –

Next Meeting Date: March 5, 2026

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Kordys to adjourn the meeting. There was a second by Bohannon and no further discussion. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Kordys

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