Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire
Rail Trails Advisory Committee (RTAC)
Meeting Minutes – October 1, 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 6:02 pm by Chair Mike Kowalczyk. The meeting was held at Whitcomb Hall.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Mike Kowalczyk, Bruce Bohannon, Alan Gross, Cindy Kordys and Rob Hart
ABSENT: Stephon Mehu, Assistant Town Planner

MINUTES:
The Minutes of August 10, 2026 were considered. **Motion** was made by Kowalczyk to approve the minutes of August 10, 2026. There was a second by Gross 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. Via memo to RTAC, Mehu reported that the project cost estimation provided by Hoyle Tanner is at $2,948,886 (previously $1.8 million). Hoyle & Tanner is working on the final design and will complete it in February 2027. The town's 20% match cost would increase from $360,000 to $580,000. Mehu reported that NH DOT Bureau of Trails will pay 50% of the town's match cost. Further updates will be provided by Mehu.
Christian Hill Road Bridge/RT Eversource Washout (by substation) – Via memo to RTAC, Mehu reported that the Request for Proposal (RFP) will be released in December 2026 and work to be done in 2027. Further updates will be provided by Mehu.
Eversource Structure Work on ART in West Swanzey – Via email, Adam Shoukimas from Eversource reported that he does not have a start date for the work. When Shoukimas confirms a date, he will update RTAC.

Funding
Review 2026 Budget – The 2026 budget was reviewed and the current balance is $4,136. There are no other budget needs through December 31, 2026. **Motion** was made by Kowalczyk to approve the payment of $4,136 to Swanzey DPW for mowing and leaf blowing on both the Ashuelot RT and Cheshire RT. There was a second by Bohannon and no further discussion. All were in favor. **Motion passed**.
Review 2027 budget – Proposed budget of $6,786 was discussed. **Motion** was made by Kowalczyk to delete the $586 line item for part time salaries and submit a $6,200 budget. There was a second by Bohannon and no further discussion. All were in favor. **Motion passed**. **Motion** was made by Kowalczyk to amend the 2027 budget and add $1,000 for a kiosk and submit a $7,200 budget. There was a second by Gross and no further discussion. All were in favor. **Motion passed**.

2027 RTAC CIP – Kowalczyk recommended $30,000 to help support the purchase of an excavator with accessories to help maintain both trails. Additional sources of funding would be a 2027 RTP grant ($80,000) , the DPW and funds left over from the TAP grant.

Ashuelot Rail Trail Westport RTP Grant 2027 – Via memo to RTAC, Mehu reported that the RTP application has been submitted. Grant will cover hardpack material from S. Holbrook Road crossing to Swanzey/Winchester town line. Decision expected by October 21st. DPW has prepped the trail surface and ditches and $2,650 of the cost was paid from the RTAC budget. Further updates will be provided by Mehu.

Ashuelot Rail Trail Signs and Posts – Kowalczyk reported that the Swanzey Conservation Commission approved $1,500 towards the cost of signs and posts on the Ashuelot RT and Home Depot will donate materials for kiosks on the Cheshire RT. Swanzey DPW will install the signs and posts in 2027.

MAST Grant—Matthews Road Crossings – Via memo to RTAC, Mehu reported that the crossing beacon foundations have been installed and the target date for installation of the beacons is the week of October 19th. The installation of a fourth crossing sign on N. Holbrook Road was discussed. Further updates will be provided by Mehu.

Monthly Cleanup Events/Maintenance Strategy

Mowing and Leaf Blowing on both Ashuelot RT and Cheshire RT

DPW mowed the trails in September 2026. Bohannon will obtain a quote from Jeff Hurt to power rake the trails.

Ash Swamp Brook Bridge

Bohannon reported that the DPW will remove the decking and Jeremy and the Sno-Riders snowmobile club will install new decking.

Promotional and Outreach

Business Contacts – Outreach – On the CRT, Kowalczyk reported that he spoke with trail users from Rhode Island and handed out trail maps.

Other

Annual Report due January 8, 2027

AI Meeting Notes: Kordys is using an app on her tablet to help with the meeting minutes.

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

Next Meeting Date: November 19, 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 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Kordys

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