Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire
Rail Trails Advisory Committee (RTAC)
Meeting Minutes – January 8, 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 6:07 pm by Chair Mike Kowalczyk. The meeting was held at Whitcomb Hall.

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

MINUTES:
The Minutes of December 11, 2025 were considered. **Motion** was made by Bohannon to approve the minutes of December 11, 2025 as amended. 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. Project will be discussed at the 2026 Deliberative Session on February 3rd.

Funding
Ashuelot Rail Trail Swanzey RTP Grant – Kowalczyk will ask Mehu to 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.
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. 4 pairs of crossing signs will be installed and the project is moved to 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 balance is $0.
Ashuelot Swamp Bridge Redecking Material: Approx. lumber cost $4,050; the Sno Riders snowmobile club will work on the project in 2026 with GIA funds.
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 – Gross reported that he will organize a bike tour around Swanzey Old Home Day on July 18 and register RTAC for the Old Home Day parade.

Other
New Swanzey 2026 Project Proposal—Finish Ashuelot RT from Eversource substation to N. Holbrook Ave crossing and S. Holbrook Ave crossing to Route 10 in Westport – Project consists of 1.5 miles of ART. Proposed work includes canopy and surface mowing, removing the grass from the trail then laying hardpack material, ditch clearing and inspect/clear culverts. 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.
Swanzey Factory Road Bridge – Kowalczyk reported that the bridge is not on anyone's plan.
AI Meeting Notes: Kordys has a January 12th meeting with Henry Underwood about using Otter.ai
Swanzey Uncovered article was submitted by Kowalczyk
RTAC Meeting 1st Thursday of every month starting at 6:00 pm, Whitcomb Hall –
Next Meeting Date: February 5, 2026

ADJOURNMENT
Motion was made by Kowalczyk to adjourn the meeting. There was a second by Gross and no further discussion. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Kordys
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