Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire
Rail Trails Advisory Committee (RTAC)
Meeting Minutes – March 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 6:04 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 February 5, 2026 were considered. **Motion** was made by Kowalczyk to approve the minutes of February 5, 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. Some preliminary work, bore hole drilling, will be done next week. Further updates will be provided by Mehu.
Review of March 10, 2026 Ballot Articles – Article 13 passed; Articles 15 and 16 did not pass.

Funding
Ashuelot Rail Trail Swanzey RTP Grant – Kowalczyk reported that Mehu has written the first draft of the 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. Mehu is waiting for the RTP training date which will be in April 2026. Joe DiRusso, DPW, agreed to do the work in 2027.
MAST Grant—Matthews Road Crossings – Four pairs of crossing signs will be installed and the work will be done in 2026. Waiting for NH DOT approval at Sawyers Crossing location. Swanzey DPW will install the sign footings and the sign supplier will install the signs. Further updates will be provided by Mehu.

Monthly Cleanup Events/Maintenance Strategy
Mowing and Leaf Blowing on both Ashuelot RT and Cheshire RT
Bohannon reported that he will mow the ART twice and Kowalczyk will mow 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 and ditch clearing was discussed. Cleanup

in the Westport area will be done in preparation for the 2027 project. Last year, the rental was done through Milton Rentals and they provided great service. Work to be done late August or September 2026.

Budget

Current Budget Status – The 2026 RTAC budget is $6,786.

Promotional and Outreach

Promotional Brochure – Updated brochure is done and ready for the next brochure order.
Business Contacts – Outreach – Kordys reported that she emailed rail trail activity updates to Ashuelt River Campground, Bridges Inn and Norm's Bike Shop.

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.

Kowalczyk reported that he spoke with the Winchester town administrator and some residents are interested in working on their section of the ART. Residents in Hinsdale, NH are interested in working on the RR bridge over the CT River along with a group in Brattleboro, VT. Connecting the CRT to the ART was briefly discussed.

RTAC Meeting 1st Thursday of every month starting at 6:00 pm, Whitcomb Hall –
Next Meeting Date: May 7, 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 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Kordys

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