

REGIONAL TRAILS COORDINATING COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 21, 2018

Stakeholders Present:

Dick Lemieux, Chair	Merrimack R. G-way Trail
Phil Rose	Friends of the GRT
Warren Denby	Friends of the GRT
Bruce Thomas	Manchester DPW
Larry Keniston	NH DOT
Louise Robie	New Boston RT

Staff Present:

Craig Tufts	CNHRPC
Maddie Dilonno	SNHPC
Derek Shooster	SNHPC
Adam Hlasny	SNHPC

1. Meeting called to order by RTCC Chair Dick Lemieux at 6:35pm

2. Approval of Minutes

- a. After review, a motion was made by Dick Lemieux to approve the minutes from the 10/24/16 meeting, seconded by Phil Rose and approved unanimously.

3. Status Updates

a. Legislative Activities

- i. House bill 1731, which introduces modified hand signal requirements for bicyclists, was discussed briefly.
- ii. In December of 2017, language was added to the NH DOT Ten Year Plan to support rail trail projects on abandoned rail corridors in New Hampshire. The question of how the RTCC can take advantage of being included in the ten year plan was posed and discussed.
- iii. There is also a bill requiring NH DOT to update the State Trails Plan regularly that has been put forward by Senator Feltes of Concord. The Plan was last updated in 2005.

b. Complete Streets Advisory Committee

- i. Craig Tufts gave a brief update of the CSAC efforts and events. The New England Bike-Walk summit will take place in Boston in April and the Complete Streets conference in New Hampshire will take place October 19th.

c. Other news

- i. Warren Denby discussed the newest development in Goffstown - North Main St. / NH 114 will be modified to support a designated bike lane. He also discussed the improvements made to connect the Goffstown Rail trail to New Boston's trail.

d. Trail Updates

i. New Boston

1. NB has received a grant to complete the last ¼ mile of the rail trail (RTP)

ii. Manchester

1. Bruce Thomas discussed status updates of three sections of Manchester rail trails. All three are scheduled for spring 2019 construction.

- a. **South Manchester Trail:** Draft preliminary design complete and under review of DPW, DPW is trying to purchase stretch of railroad owned by Pan Am still active at Sundial Avenue.

- b. **Rockingham Trail:** An engineering study is underway. Bruce discussed the controversy of paving the trail. Many locals in the area have expressed concern for paving the trail, especially snowmobilers. Snowmobiling may be permitted on the trail if allowed by the municipality. Bruce said the trail could possibly be paved from Mammoth Rd. to Page Rd. (west of I-93).
- c. **Downtown TAP Trail:** Preliminary design approved by NHDOT. NEPA certification must take place before final design can commence.

4. 2012 Trails Plan Update

- a. Craig summarized the edits that RPC staff has made to the plan thus far. He discussed the community profiles, which need to be updated so that a list of specific projects can be identified.
- b. There are several gaps in the previous plan that should be improved in the updated plan such as the Bow-Concord trail updates, Manchester-Hooksett, and Derry/Londonderry Exit 4A updates. Craig proposed that staff print out maps and sit down with town representatives to draw out the routes to get a better idea of the trails.
 - i. Derek mentioned that Manchester Connects would be a good partnering agency, whose goal is to improve connectivity between Downtown Manchester and the Millyard.
 - ii. Craig discussed public outreach efforts and the importance of reaching out to existing groups for support.
 - iii. Dick proposed developing an outline/draft of the plan and sending it to each town or sitting down with town representatives to gather feedback before developing final plan.
 - iv. Derek suggested techniques to weave the trails plan into town master plans.

5. Next Steps

- a. RTCC will look at the Goffstown-New Boston rail trail connection as a starting point and collaborate with each town to gather information and fill gaps in the previous plan.
- b. Staff will reach out to Manchester DPW about the rail trail airport loop section phase III to discuss possible plan and timeline.
- c. Staff will send out a word doc of the latest draft; RTCC members will reply with edits by April 16.
- d. Staff should reach out to towns that have not been present at meetings.
- e. Next tentative meeting date: **June 20th, 6:30pm at Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission.**

6. Other Comments:

- a. Adam discussed possible 'rail trail passport program' that could be introduced to New Hampshire trails based upon an SNHPC staff discussion that took place recently.
- b. Louise would like to see more outreach effort, such as trail websites collaborating by posting links to other towns' trail information. There could also be increased effort to coordinate community events among town trails.
- c. Dick would like to see more support for the development of a statewide trail map.
 - i. Craig proposed expanding the rail trail google map into a statewide trail map.
- d. Dick asked about the traffic counting program on trails and how we could use the data in the updated plan.

7. Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm