



TOWN OF NORTH HAMPTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE
NORTH HAMPTON SELECT RAIL TRAIL COMMITTEE
DECEMBER 2ND, 2020
NORTH HAMPTON TOWN HALL
DRAFT MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman James Sununu, Secretary Joe Manzi, Jeff Latimer, Tom Argue, Vice-Chairman Cindy Henry, Carrie Becker, Alternate-Bob Anderson

ALSO PRESENT: Town Administrator Michael Tully

- 1.) **Chairman Sununu called the meeting to order at 7pm and led the pledge of allegiance.**
- 2.) **Discussion Regarding Establishing Subcommittees.** Chairman Sununu explained that rather than pursue subcommittees as was discussed at last months meeting, his preference would be to have individuals designated to pursue specific items and to bring that research and information back to the Committee. Chairman Sununu explained the reason for this was that if we developed sub committees it would present logistical meeting challenges under the RSA. Mr. Latimer stated that we have until 2022 to develop our plan and thought Chairman Sununu's plan was the best way to go. Ms. Henry voiced her agreement with Mr. Latimer. There was no opposition expressed to Chairman Sununu's plan.
- 3.) **Chairman Sununu set item Prioritization.**
- 4.) **Access to the trail-Broken down into primary and secondary access-** Chairman Sununu that for main access points we are looking for areas that can accommodate parking, be easily accessed and are ADA compliant. Secondary access can be narrow path trails that lead to the shopping center or town complex. We should communicate with abutters and pursue possible access agreements. Mr. Anderson stated that the town has land between Home Depot and Marshalls that could be a parking spot. Mr. Argue asked who owned the space behind Joe's and could that be an option. Mr. Latimer said that the Conservation Commission has developed trails in some of the areas, and that some of the spacing in the shopping center is designated through conservation easements. Chairman Sununu asked Mr. Latimer if any of the trips are mapped. Mr. Latimer explained that he has walked and GPS some of the trails and plans to map at the back of the parking lot, and that he will continue to work on this. Mr. Sununu stated that he walked up and down the trail and that there are some promising trails both public and private.

Mr. Sununu asked Mr. Latimer if he could start documenting trails and side trails. Town administrator Tully explained that the spots behind Joe's and where the garages and tanks are, are privately owned, and the reason there is some space near the tanks is that they are kept open so that the large trucks that visit the tanks have space to get in and out. Mr. Latimer asked about the Airport runway. Town Administrator Tully said that without elaborating at this time, there currently is work going on to address some of these access points going on right now.

- 5.) **Maintenance-** Chairman Sununu said towns will be responsible so that we should be looking at possible volunteers, or business sponsorships. Keeping overhanging tree branches cleared and signage are among the priorities.
- 6.) **Business Outreach-** Chairman Sununu **stated that businesses with side trails to route 1 may sponsor signage or maintenance.** Town Administrator Tully said that he thinks it's important to determine from businesses if they see this project as a benefit to business and as a sponsorship opportunity. Mr. Anderson felt that Home Depot would be interested and that he would like to see things sooner rather than later including the handicapped access. Mr. Latimer mentioned that in working with other committees he has a list of businesses from Portsmouth to Seabrook who may be supportive and that coastal trails sponsored markings at every eighth of a mile. Mr. Latimer also stated that any signage should have uniformity with other communities to make the trail look as good as possible. Mr. Latimer said that his list may need some updating. Chairman Sununu asked for a volunteer to pursue businesses. Ms. Henry volunteered, and Vice Chairman Henry volunteered, and Ms. Becker offered to assist.
- 7.) **Recreation and Education-** Mr. Manzi stated that he has begun doing outdoors programs on the trail with youth in town and will continue this which he sees as a great way to inform and educate Town residents about the value of the Trail. Mr. Manzi also stated that he would like to collaborate with and Mr. Latimer on some program ideas. Mr. Latimer was supportive.
- 8.) **Discussion of Membership/Participation in Other Groups**
 - Seacoast Greenway (RPC)
 - NH Rail Trails (<http://nhrctc.org>)
 - Others?**Chairman Sununu asked if we could have a Representative from our committee to Seacoast Greenway to keep track of their information. Mr. Latimer volunteered to do this as he is already a member of Seacoast Greenway. Town Administrator Tully said that in the past paperwork had started to make the entire Seacoast Greenway a registered non-profit and that this could be continued and completed to get the involved towns together under the one non-profit umbrella. Mr. Latimer also wanted the Committee to be aware of the website Trailtowns.org as a resource.
- 9.) **Approval of Meetings minutes of November 4th, 2020-**Motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to accept the minutes.
- 10.) **Other items-**Chairman Sununu proposed that the next meeting be held February 3rd after the Holidays. The Committee agreed.
- 11.) **Public Comment-**There was none.

Meeting adjourned 7:45

Disclaimer-These minutes are prepared by the Recording Secretary within five (5) business days as required by NH RSA 91-A;2,11. They will not be finalized until approved by majority vote of the Rail Trail Committee.

A recording of this meeting can be found at

<http://www.townhallstreams.com/towns/northhamptonnh>

Next Scheduled meeting Wednesday February 3rd 7pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Joe Manzi, Secretary Rail Trail Committee