



RUTLAND REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

DELAWARE & HUDSON RAIL TRAIL COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2025, 6:00 PM

ATTENDANCE (X = in person, V = virtual attendance)

MUNICIPALITY/ORG	REPRESENTATIVE	
Castleton	Matt Brown - Chairperson	V
Poultney Village	-	
Poultney Town	Philip Wattenbarger	V
Granville Village	Dwayne Daigle	X
Granville Town	-	
Pawlet	Frank Nelson- Vice Chairperson	
Rupert	John LaVecchia	V
Salem	-	
Poultney Area Chamber of Commerce	-	
Lakes Region Area Chamber of Commerce	Greg Parke	
Granville Area Chamber of Commerce	-	
Chamber of Economic Development of the Rutland Region	-	
Slate Valley Trails (Ex-Officio)	Dylan Daigle	V
Vermont Association of Snow Travelers	-	
Bennington County Regional Planning Commission	Jim Henderson	
Rutland Regional Planning Commission	Nic Stark - Secretary	X

Staff: Jackie Cassino (VTrans)

Virtual Guests:

Public: Elain Daigle

MEETING MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS

Matt Brown called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM

2. UPDATES FROM STATE, MUNICIPAL, AND CHAMBER MEMBERS

Castleton: No updates on trail. VSU Castleton may install a security camera facing the trail parking lot.

Granville: Snowmobile trails are open and groomed.

Pawlet: No representative present.



RUTLAND REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Poultney: Trail being well used by snowmobilers.

Rupert: Meeting was held in Rupert on how to possibly spend VOREC funds that were previously allocated to parking lot on amenities around the town green.

Slate Valley Trails: No updates.

3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING'S DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Dwayne Daigle makes a motion to accept the draft minutes, Philip Wattenbarger seconds, ayes have it.

4. TRAIL MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

Nic shared the flyers for the Public Input Tool and will send out an email requesting representatives to provide a number of flyers they can distribute within their communities.

Nic reported that VTrans and VHB (Consultant) are extending the public input period for the plan to May in order to capture more on-trail feedback and surveys. Nic will send an email requesting suggestions of community events in representatives respective communities that would be a good place to solicit input on the trail management plan.

Nic has started to put together a list of trail stakeholders to invite to the Public Input Session in April, he will send around the list for any additions or edits.

Nic floated the idea of having representatives visit their municipal governing bodies to update them on the trail management plan and potentially doing so on a recurring basis.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

Trail Counters: Jackie Cassino gave an update on the permanent trail counters and publish dashboard. They will be installed in the spring once the ground thaws. There will be once in each municipality near pinch points that won't attract attention or cause false triggers. Non-permanent trail counters are available and can be request for specific short-term data collection.

Trail Segment Brochures: Jackie gave an update on the trail specific brochures being developed.

Philip advocated for inclusion of a QR code on the brochure. A draft version of the brochure will be provided for feedback at a later date.

User Survey Report: Nic shared the [2024 LVRT User Survey Report](#) and explained that for this year the DHRT User Survey will be combined with the survey efforts for the Trail Management Plan.

Missing Link: Nic reported that the Missing Link Plan would be split from the Trail Management Plan to keep things simpler. Nic has started on a draft of the Missing Link Plan and a Missing Link Stakeholder List. Nic will share the Missing Link Plan at a future date, it will act as the foundation for calling a Missing Link Stakeholder Meeting in early spring. Nic also reported on his visit to the Salem, NY Economic Development Committee where he learned a railway preservation non-profit currently owns their train depot and the corridor connecting Salem down to Greenwich. Dylan Daigle



RUTLAND REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

suggested including VMBA in the stakeholders list. Jackie suggested including the VT Trails and Greenways Council.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

None

7. ADJOURNED

Philip Wattenbarger makes a motion to adjourn, John LaVecchia seconded, ayes have it.

Respectively submitted by Nic Stark