

**Town of New Hartford  
Multi use Trails – Rails To Trails  
Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, March 28, 2022**

**Present:** First Selectman Dan Jerram, Committee Members Greg O'Brien, Jim Brett, Pat Cunningham, Jeff Peltier, Jeremy Schaller, Bill Baxter; Administrative Assistant Christine Hayward.

**Others Present:** Shelly Lloyd, John Lloyd, Stephen Worthington

First Selectman Jerram called the meeting to order at 6:40 PM.

The purpose of this meeting was to review a set of proposed multi use trail plans with a starting point in the center of New Hartford and heading east towards Church Street in Pine Meadow following the "old rail bed" that exists along Route 44.

Mr. Jerram stated that the consultants want the Committee to review the proposal and provide feedback.

**Discussion/review of the plans:**

The consultants have designated the commuter lot behind the church as the starting point. There are already sidewalks in place. A crosswalk has been proposed for safe crossing across Town Hill/Route 219. Callahan Park could still be used for an alternate starting point and an additional crosswalk could be installed for crossing from Route 219 North to Route 44 East.

A pedestrian bridge has been proposed at the stream crossing prior to High Street.

A stairwell has been proposed to access the trail at High Street. Concern was expressed regarding the proximity of the stairs to the abutting landowner.

Jerram noted that sewer main may have to be realigned to accommodate construction of a trail.

Members of the committee voiced concern that a stairway access discourages strollers and bikes. Also, it limits access to downtown area by those who park and begin at the opposite end of the trail and head toward the center. A suggestion was made that bike racks could be installed at the top of the stairway so that visitors could lock up their bikes and make their way on foot to the center of town.

A suggestion was also made that a switchback be investigated in lieu of stairway access.

Phase 1 of the trail would proceed along the rail bed/sewer line area with the initial phase ending at Church Street in Pine Meadow. There is town owned land near the well head in Pine Meadow and there is also a parcel of land that current owner would be interested in selling to the town.

The Committee would like to see the proposed Phase 1 continue behind Pine Meadow Farms and exit at the Waring Park. The topography was questioned because the grades in that area are difficult to work with. A brief discussion of "how close can the trail get to the rear of the properties in Pine Meadow

farms?” ensued. The Committee felt that a minimum of 100 feet away from property lines should be adhered to.

The Committee agreed that they would like to see Phase 1 completed; thinking this would then make it easier to get funding for the remainder of the trail.

The committee would like the following feedback from the consultants:

the cost of the staircase and an estimated cost of a switchback (if it is at all feasible)

An estimate of the overall cost of phase 1 – plus the additional cost to extend to the Waring Park

Budget numbers of where things stand now and how much additional funds will be needed to complete the design and get the design “shovel ready.”

First Selectman Jerram will contact the consultants to get their responses.

**MOTION:** by O’Brien to adjourn at 8:05; seconded by Peltier.

*Unanimous*

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Christine Hayward, Administrative Assistant*

*Attachments: (available from the Town Clerk by request)*

*Proposed Trail – 11 pages of drawings*

*Barton&Loguidice*

*Semi-Final Design Submission not released for construction*