

**Town of New Hartford  
Trails Committee  
Special Meeting  
Thursday, November 7, 2019**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** First Selectman/Chairman Dan Jerram, Members: Bill Baxter, Jeff Peltier, Greg O'Brien, Jim Brett; Kevin Grindle (Anchor Engineering) Val Ferro (Good Earth consulting), Mike Lucas (Town of New Hartford Land Use Administrator) Rista Malanca (in at 7:10), Administrative Assistant Christine Hayward.

**Minutes:**

**MOTION:** by Peltier to accept the minutes dated October 3, 2019 as presented; seconded by O'Brien.

*Unanimous*

**MOTION:** by Peltier to accept the minutes dated October 7, with the following correction: Include Greg O'Brien as being present at the meeting; seconded by O'Brien.

*Unanimous*

**Discussion with Kevin Grindle and Valarie Ferro re: Next Steps for routing study/design plans for multi use trail:**

The Committee members brainstormed ideas as to what is important when creating a trail. They briefly discussed topography, amenities, connectivity to other trail networks, composition of the trail (what is it made of – stone dust, pavement, dirt); ease of access, availability of parking, construction costs and other factors. Consultants Grindle and Ferro stated that, on occasion, there may be a need to modify a preferred route and consider an alternate route as a temporary by pass of an area that may pose difficulty with construction. Members of the committee expressed their opinion that the gorge area of the proposed route could be the key to the success of this trail. Mr. Peltier and Mr. Baxter were in agreement that the gorge area offers a uniqueness to this trail and feel that the unparalleled scenery in this location is what would bring visitors to use this trail. The consultants agreed that this is a beautiful area, but cautioned that it will be expensive to construct. They did agree that nothing is impossible, it just may cost more.

Following the discussion of the proposed route, it was agreed that a site walk would be conducted by Val and Kevin; accompanied by First Selectman Jerram and Land Use Administrator Michael Lucas prior to the next meeting date.

**Discussion of next meeting date:**

After discussion of possible meeting dates, the committee agreed to meet on 11/21/19 at 6:00 PM.

**MOTION:** by Baxter to adjourn at 7:30 PM; seconded by O'Brien.

*Unanimous.*

Respectfully Submitted,  
Christine Hayward, Administrative Assistant