

**TOWN OF ASHBURNHAM
RAIL TRAIL MINUTES
OCTOBER 26, 2006
STEVENS MEMORIAL LIBRARY**

The meeting of the Ashburnham Rail Trail Committee was held at Stevens Memorial Library on Thursday, October 26, 2006. The meeting opened at 1:05 p.m.

Sworn-in members in attendance: Bernie Hines, Sallie Thoma and Irene Gelinias. Absent members were: Sherisa Sterling and Brian Moorhead. Ex-Officio member in attendance: Eric Smith, Town Planner. Cec Snow (ACT) was also in attendance.

Today we have two firms to interview reference the Ashburnham Rail Trail 25% design. The Committee chose these two bidders for rail trail experience and coming in within budget.

First was the firm of Fay, Spofford & Thorndike accompanied by Marshall Dennis of Wetlands & Wildlife, Inc. John Hendrickon and Jennifer Shemowat gave us a video presentation along with a booklet of our trail. They have worked on 500 miles of trails from the Hampton's to Maine. Some of them were the Cape Cod (oldest – 25 years old) with 22 miles; Nashua River Rail Trail, 11 miles and the North Central Pathway connection in Gardner. All were Mass. Highway funded projects; some wheelchair accessible. Design issues will be the 150 ft. bridge span which can be a focal point. They have as many as 25 designs of bridges. Environmental permits to be filed at 75% design level with 25% design end. They are familiar with design standards and have experience working with Town Committees. They have available and committed staff. Mr. Marshall is a local resident and has a vast experience with environmental issues. After fielding some questions from the committee, the presentation ended at 1:40 p.m.

Next presenter was Lenard Engineering, Inc. Karina G. Quinn and Paul Magyar. They were accompanied by Nancy W. Deniq from Deniq Design Associates, Inc. They gave us a stapled pamphlet with info on our trail with photos and designs. They also have a Connecticut office and most of their projects were there. They do have a connection with Mass Highway. They informed us that we would be competing for highway monies and that many big projects are on the priority waiting list. They used large boards for display which was hard to follow and distracting every time they were changed. Presentation ended at 2:45 p.m.

The meeting opened to committee discussion. FST bid was \$39,900 and Lenard \$37,847. Committee was impressed with FST presentation and rail trail experience. Eric and Sallie will call references to verify their experience with the company. Sallie made a motion to award the contract to FST subject to references. Bernie Hines seconded. 3:05 p.m.

Since we had a quorum present, we read and approved the June, July, August and September 2006 minutes with corrections.

Sallie made a motion to adjourn at 3:35 p.m. seconded by Bernie Hines.

Next meeting November 13, 2006 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Irene Gelinias