

**TOWN OF ASHBURNHAM
RAIL TRAIL MINUTES
NOVEMBER 13, 2006
STEVENS MEMORIAL LIBRARY**

The meeting of the Ashburnham Rail Trail Committee was held at Stevens Memorial Library on Monday, November 13, 2006. The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

Sworn-in members in attendance: Sallie Thoma, Sherisa Sterling, Paula Gorrell and Irene Gelinias. Absent members were: Brian Moorhead and Barnie Hines. Ex-officio member in attendance: Eric Smith, Town Planner. Cec Snow (ACT) was also in attendance. Correction: Brian Moorhead has resigned.

Guests present were John Hendrickson and Jen Shemowat from Fay, Spofford & Thorndike. Marshall Dennis from Wetlands & Wildlife, Inc.

Mr. Dennis explained the process. First, he will flag the wetlands, do a topographical survey before snow fall to see restrictions we might face. Old poles at Cushing field may be on the trail that will show on the survey. He will flag vegetative areas and wetlands and identify vernal pools and streams. Plan and data to Conservation Commission and will be good for three years.

Mr. Hendrickson and Ms. Shemowat spoke about the layout and width of trail, depth of asphalt, options for bridge by structural engineers, 25% design checklist and writing of letters to various government agencies, historical commission, etc. Then to Mass Highway who has strict guidelines. What kind of trail are we looking for? 10 ft. wide, 3-4 ft. soft shoulder. There are a variety of materials and different costs. Any decision can only be made after the survey. After 25% design is completed, we must hold a Public Hearing invite people and place newspaper ads, which is the responsibility of the committee. Maintenance may be our biggest issue. Input on parking locations, Caouette property may be a possibility. Suggestion of sidewalk in front of Cushing Field would need to see right of way plans. Frost is the Mass Highway contact. Through the Executive Office of Transportation there may be funds from the "Safe Route to School Program".

Guests departed at 7:50 p.m.

Committee read and approved the October minutes.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. Next meeting is Monday, December 11, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,

Irene Gelinias