

**TOWN OF ASHBURNHAM
RAIL TRAIL MINUTES
JANUARY 8, 2007
STEVENS MEMORIAL LIBRARY**

The meeting of the Ashburnham Rail Trail Committee was held at Stevens Memorial Library on Monday, January 8, 2007. The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

Sworn-in members in attendance: Sallie Thoma, Sherisa Sterling, Paula Gorrell and Barnie Hines. Absent members were: Irene Gelinas and Art Pinsoneault. Ex-officio member in attendance: Eric Smith, Town Planner. Cec Snow (ACT) was also in attendance.

Sallie Thoma presented Eric Smith with a copy of the Cheshire Line layout plans dated 1914, these predated the copies that the town and Eric have. Eric was happy to accept such a treasure.

Eric gave out copies of a letter from Jennifer Shemowat at F.S.T. (Faye, Spofford & Thorndike) dated January 8, 2007 regarding the porous pavement and/or rubber sidewalk issue that we requested. It was the recommendation of FST that the rubber sidewalk surface in question be more suited for sidewalk use and not suitable for the Rail Trail.

Eric brought up that he helped interview the candidates for the Town DPW Director, he made note of the questions to ask if any of the candidates had experience with Rail Trails. Also discussed was the Mass Highway Dept. Project need form including type of surface we would like the trail to be surfaced with. A motion was made by Paula Gorrell to go with the recommendation of FST's George Batchelor, Supervisor of Landscape Design at Mass Highway for a Hot Mix asphalt. Sherisa Sterling seconded the motion and the motion passed 3 to 1. (Sherisa voted against the motion.)

Art Pinsoneault was sworn in as a member of the Rail Trail Committee in December.

Eric emailed Joanne Carr about the Rindge, NH Rail Trail for information about funding, construction and maintenance of their trail, and he has yet to receive a reply.

Cec Snow brought up that part of the trail from Route 101 up to County Road still has the railroad ties in the ground. She brought to our attention that on her walks, the scenery and wildlife (moose, turtles and butterflies) were worth the trip.

Eric mentioned that tonight (January 8th) the Selectmen were meeting to discuss 3 parcels of land on Lake Watatic, he (Mark Dymek) proposes that the Town approve a swap of map 55 parcel 53 for a section of the Rail Trail through his property. Eric suggests that we attend the 40B meeting on January 31st at 7 p.m. and that the Rail Trail Committee should have ready the acreage being accessed on the above said parcel and Mark's property, after we compare we would support the concept of the swap, but would prefer an outright gift of the property from Turnpike to Mele Avenue including the connection to Briggs School. Paula Gorrell made the motion about support of the gift, and Sherisa Sterling seconded it and all voted in favor with no objections.

Our next meeting is February 12th at 6:30 p.m. at the Stevens Memorial Library. Barnie made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. and Sallie seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

Bernadette (Barnie) Hines

cc: Town Clerk's Office