

**TOWN OF ASHBURNHAM
RAIL TRAIL MINUTES
APRIL 9, 2007
STEVENS MEMORIAL LIBRARY**

The meeting of the Ashburnham Rail Trail Committee was held at Stevens Memorial Library on April 9, 2007.

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

Meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m.

Jen Shemowat from Fay, Spofford & Thorndike brought design of the trail for all of us to review and comment on. Mary Coswell joined us at this point. The three bridge options are:

1. Pre-fab structure on new concrete abutments. (anything over 12 ft. has to be assembled on site).
One hundred foot span most commonly used.
2. Pre-stressed concrete beam with railings.
3. Steel stringers with steel hand rail.

Ten foot wide trail is being considered; however trail width can be reduced for environmental or other reasons. We pay for design and Mass Highway for construction. When we have a date for Public Meeting, we need to notify our state representatives. Land swap with Dymek should have a time limitation. Sallie will email Darlene Ligor of Pan-Am in reference to purchasing trail to Winchendon Town line. \$4,000 an acre was the going price but it may have gone up.

Eric and engineers have a meeting next month with Mass Highway.

Safe Routes to School Program may have funding also Betsy Goodrich of Lowell is also a contact for Rails to Trails Conservancy.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Next meeting: Monday May 14, 2007

Submitted by: Irene G. Gelinas