

Beacon Falls Board of Selectmen
10 Maple Avenue
Beacon Falls, CT 06403



BEACON FALLS BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Monthly Meeting
April 9, 2018
MINUTES
(Subject to Revision)

1. Call to Order/Pledge to the Flag

First Selectman Chris Bielik called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M.

Members Present: First Selectman Chris Bielik, Selectman Peter Betkoski, and Selectman Mike Krenesky

Others present Michael Yamin Superintendent of Region 16 and 10 members of the public. Citizen's news.

2. Region 16 – FY 2018-2019 Budget Brief by Superintendent Yamin

Yamin: Been with the Region for 4 years, hold 6 budget workshop for the budget. Pages 5 and 7 are significant pages, and 13 and 14 additions and high lights. Pre-student performance increased the resources, gift program, increased special education and college placement as well as SAT prep courses. Increased our efficiency, paperless, direct deposit, how we run the business office, students have the chrome books. We have been fiscally responsible, less than 2%. By state law \$80,000.00 is the minimum budget reduction of students. Any questions I can answer them to the best of my ability.

Krenesky; the net cost to the member towns, what changed or didn't change in your budget that we are going up \$290,000.00. Yamin; less of a carryover, estimated \$185,000.00 in ECS and State money, the government gave 3 numbers for ECS, and we had to average the numbers, and there is less in state revenue. The state cut \$276,000.00 and didn't cut Prospect, and it seems like Beacon Falls is getting cut short instead of Prospect. And I don't know why that is. Your students increased, 38.8% to 38.9%. The special Education numbers were included in the ECS in past years and this year they are separate. I don't think you can estimate, where the state will be giving you for money. I would like to

encourage you to come to the Board of Ed meeting; I don't want to take public questions tonight. I will answer BOS questions only. Bielik; when you see a reduction it's a reasonable effort. Yamin: I think we've done an excellent job. Krenesky; The Chrome books have expanded from 6-12 grade, Yamin; 6th-8th are recycled and right now it's 9th-12th get to keep them all 4 years and when they graduate they are theirs. Betkoski; snow removal how is that done? Yamin: it goes out to bid yearly. A couple of contractors had problems with insurance, so I do think that may go up next year, transportation is a problem two, the state imposed a new tax on bus companies.

3. Naugatuck River Greenway Economic Presentation by NVCOG

Bielik: Presentation on the Naugatuck River Greenway, Mark Nielsen, Assistant Director of Planning and Aaron Budris, Senior Planner.

Mark Nielsen; Region Planning Organization for the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments, along the Naugatuck River, NRG started 2010, the proposal for a multipurpose trail following the Naugatuck River from Torrington to Derby. When complete the NRG trail will link 11 municipalities, help reclaim the Naugatuck River for recreation, provide an alternate mode of transportation, support tourism and economic development in the region and improve resident's quality of life. Pamphlets of the study and results of the study are available in the Town Hall or you can go on the website; www.nvcogct.org for the full report. Attached is a copy of the pamphlet.

Krenesky; where does this fit into with the TOD in Seymour?

Mark N: very closely related, TOD is trying to use different land uses with the train station, we are non-motorized trying to connect communities by our trails, but they are tied together.

Betkoski: Where do we get the money for this?

Mark N: Studies will help this. These surveys are trying to say this is a good investment.

Betkoski; we were going to extend our walkway downtown, does the money work the same way with other towns? Mark N; Yes it's 80/20 with the state. And another program through federal funding is also 80/20.

Betkoski; I think we want to work with Seymour, with the connecting roads from Beacon Falls and Seymour.

Krenesky; in the meeting with Tom Haynes, he said he is ready to come into Beacon Falls within 3-5 years.

Bielik; when do we find out if we were successful with the DOT grant selections.

Mark N: So far we weren't selected yet. Bielik: we really appreciate you getting things done and moving along.

Motion to move agenda item Under New Business item 20 C to new Agenda Item 4 – Servants of Christ Bike Night-Discussion and Possible Action.
Betkoski/Krenesky; no discussion; all ayes.

4. Rick Mackness; of the Servants of Christ Motorcycle Ministry, We would like to do a Motorcycle Bike Night; we support the Vets, special Education in Milford. We would like to do it at the Fire Department parking lot 35 N Main St., and I have the 3 Million dollar insurance policy and also a policy that covers the Fire Department on those days. Handed Chris Bielik, the insurance policy. Bike show from 6-9 PM, gifts for the bikers, and local business give out trophies, and it's a free event for the public and all the money we collect on the 50/50 100% goes to the Fire Department. Orange Country chopper bikes come in. We have been doing this since 2000.

Krenesky; this will be 5 different nights.

Rick: Yes it will be 5 different nights. It's the 3 Thursday every month starting in May, June, July, Aug, Sept.

Chairmen of ECD Jack Betkoski, I think it will be good for Beacon Falls.

MAN who is with Rick Mackness; we are a Christian Bike only, and residents from the valley area come and on a good night we could get up to 250 bikes.

Bielik; the schedule is okay with the Fire Department? Rick Mackness; Yes and everyone will be out by 9-9:30 PM. FLYER is attached to this report.

Motion to consider the request; Betkoski/Krenesky; approved for the dates, no discussion; all ayes

5. Comments from the Public;

Mary Ellen Fernandes 31 South Circle; I would like my two comments to be put on the Agenda, the safety and traffic on Rimmon Hill, and the clarification of the procedure the Selectmen took. Krenesky; what is the urgency to put this on tonight's agenda? Fernandes: I don't want you to have a month to answer the question. The safety issue on Rimmon Hill the speed is outrageous, so when I go riding my horses there, and they go by too fast. We've asked for them to slow down. State statute says we can be on the road, and the town needs to protect us. If I see a deer I stop, and these horses are much bigger than a deer, and it's close to harassment. We need signs, or police coverage, not just for us but for the drivers also. And I haven't seen any changes since I last talk with Chris.

Motion to add to tonight agenda Rimmon Hill traffic safety with regards to horse traffic new item #6; Betkoski/Krenesky; no discussion; all ayes

Bielik; and the other item you would like put on the agenda?

M Fernandes; I question what avenue did the Board of Selectmen take over this charge for the commission of the Boards? How much they get paid and who they work for. I saw in the paper that the Board of Selectmen has taken over the clerk's payments and pay changes? Did you pass an ordinance? By what legal means did you do this?

Bielik; this was discussed at a couple of Board of Selectmen meetings was done very publicly done. Do we want to add it as an agenda item?

Bielik; No motion was given to add it to the agenda on the clerk fees.

Peter Betkoski 344 Bethany Rd; Would like to address my Selectmen and the people of Beacon Falls, I already have a payment plan set up with the Tax Collector, it's public knowledge and moving forward I would like to take my salary and put it towards my taxes until I'm completed caught up on my back town taxes.

Chris Bielik 119 Rice Ln Ext.; the issue Mr. Betkoski has been in the public view for a while now and has been reviewed by town attorneys for ordinance that would drive where Mr. Betkoski is going to tonight, statutorily we have been told by our attorneys, that is not a possibility that could not be done, and doing it voluntarily to do it on your own the town of Beacon Falls should recognize that and be aware of that, and commended you for doing so.

Krenesky: I would like to commend you also Peter, glad to see you prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that you are stepping up.

Gerard Smith Lasky Rd; Peter I too would like to commend you also for doing the right thing.

Susan Cable, I am a registered voter in town and am moving back to 196 Blackberry Hill; the Present address is; 75 New Field Ave, Waterbury CT. I understand not putting the item on the agenda that Mary Ellen asked, but it would be nice just to get a response to get an answer if it was a legal procedure or not.

Jack Betkoski 118 Munson Rd; Commend my brother for what he did this evening, Susan, me, mom and my dad we have all devoted out life to this town, and this crap has got to stop from one individual, we are not going to put up with it, we gave our blood sweat and tears to this town, and I pick up the citizens news and I'm embarrassed, he works his ass off to pay his bills, he's struggling like 1000 of Americans and for this to go on is disgusting and makes people not want to stay in public service and I'm telling you, I will continue, Susan will continue, Peter will continue, my mom and dad are looking down on us and saying this is not how we operate in this town, I am very proud of him and support him 1000%.

Bielik; Called three times and there were no more comments from the public

6. Rimmon Hill traffic safety with regards to horse traffic;

Fernandes; gave copies of the state stature saying what motorist and equestrians need to do. In the last few weeks short distanced to go ¼ mile, we have 19 to 24 cars pass us, there needs to be a way to educate the locals. And they come by us on both sides. Betkoski; we can put up signs. Fernandes; the sign by the High

School is missing again, can we move the one from West Rd and put it there? And for a sign, we need a BIG sign and the motorist has to be alerted to this.

Krenesky; How do the other towns take care of this?

Fernandes; I carry a sign and tell them to slow down. I don't want anyone to get hurt.

Betkoski; resident don't realize how much danger can be done if you hit a horse.

Fernandes; someone is going to get hurt, maybe the policy can stop people and stop them and say you need to slow down, there are horses up there. And accidents are going to happen. I'm talking about the disrespect to the motorists that go by.

Pat Hinman 387 Burton Rd; could we get something put in the paper or the Citizens news? Many of them are youth and a lot of older people that do the same thing. I find it very offensive and it's terrible. Put the statues in the paper or take it to the police station. Mostly on the weekend is the worst time.

Bielik; we can put it on the town website, social media but maybe coming from a different source working with the police, if we have a time frame your riding, we can schedule the police support you may need. If we knew the times we could do some enforcement on the Rimmon Hill area. The electronic flashing signs work when people are speeding, so maybe something else like that.

Fernandes; we need to share the road; we don't want to see anyone getting hurt.

Bielik: I'll advise Lt Rodriguez if you're going to out call him before you go out and maybe we can detail it. Krenesky; let us reach out to other towns and see how other towns handle it.

Bielik; CCM has a good research department and see how it's done.

7. Read and Approve Minutes from Previous Meetings

Motion to accept the minutes from the meetings – as a block regular monthly meeting held on 03/12/2018; the special town meeting, 03/26/2018 Public hearing held on 03/26/2018; the joint Board of Selectmen/Finance meetings held on 03/28/2018: Betkoski; Krenesky; no discussion; all ayes.

8. Resident Trooper/Police Report

Motion to accept the Resident Trooper/ Police Report as submitted for tonight's meeting: Krenesky/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.

9. Wastewater Treatment Plant Report

Motion to accept the report as submitted by the Wastewater Treatment Plant for tonight's meeting: Betkoski/Krenesky; Bielik; to extended condolence to Walter O. on the passing of his mother; all ayes.

10. Report of Public Works

Motion to accept the report as submitted by Public Works for tonight's meeting:
Krenesky/Betkoski, Betkoski; Where is the large sinkhole Pond Spring? Bielik; at the cul-de-sac. Bielik; COGG is schedule household hazarded waste for the area is in Middlebury on Saturday 4/21/2018, it's also on the Town Website for more details. All ayes

11. Report of the Fire Marshal

Motion to accept the report as submitted by the Fire Marshall for tonight's meeting:
Krenesky/Betkoski; Krenesky; what going on with Eddie and the Fire Marshal? Bielik; Something coming up with correspondence; all ayes.

12. Report of the Finance Manager

Motion to accept the report as submitted by the Finance Manager for tonight's meeting and forward to the Board of Finance for their next scheduled meeting:
Krenesky/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.

13. Report of the Tax Collector

Motions to accept the monthly report as submitted by the Tax Collector for tonight's meeting and forward to the Board of Finance for their next scheduled meeting:
Betkoski/Krenesky; no discussion; all ayes.

14. Report of the Town Treasurer

Motions to accept the monthly report as submitted by the Town Treasurer for tonight's meeting and forward to the Board of Finance for their next scheduled meeting:
Betkoski/Krenesky; Krenesky: Question on the Milbourn trust CD, Every three 3 years it cycles can we find out where it's at now. Bielik; I'll ask Wendy as to when the next time it matures. Krenesky: can we look for a better place for it? all ayes.

15. Report of the Town Clerk

Motions to accept the monthly report as submitted by the Town Clerk for tonight's meeting and forward to the Board of Finance for their next scheduled meeting:
Krenesky/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.

16. Report from Economic Development

Motion to accept the report as submitted by the Economic Development for tonight's meeting; Betkoski/Krenesky; Bielik; we are planning an EDC and Great Valley Commerce Joint business breakfast at the New Harvest, and all the business have been invited. 8-9:30 AM April 30, 2018; and great job Sadie; all ayes.

17. Report of the Library

Motion to accept the report as submitted by the Library Director for tonight's meeting; Krenesky/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.

18. Report of the Fire Department

Motion to accept the report as submitted by the Fire Department for tonight's meeting; Krenesky/Betkoski; Bielik; would like to recognize one of the recipients to the CT Fire Fighter Hall of Fame former Chief Ted Smith. Krenesky; did they set the time of the wet down? Joe Rodonigo; April 28th. all ayes

19. Any Other Reports

a. **Report of the Custodian Bielik;** *Our Custodian has some health issues and will be given an update on his status soon and wish him well. So no report.*

b. **Report of the Town Nurse**

Motion to accept town Nurse Report; Betkoski/Krenesky; no discussion; all ayes.

c. **Report of the Animal Control Officer**

Motion to accept the report as submitted by the Animal Control Officer for tonight's meeting; Krenesky/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.

d. **Report of the Community Media Center Building Committee**

Krenesky; we took a walking tour of the Seymour Rec center, it gave us an opportunity on their facility and the challenges they have on that building. Building it all came down to space, it's a matter of putting together very large space beyond that any of us were thinking about and financial much larger than we thought. We as a committee have become stagnant because of the no interest in moving forward by various commissions in town, and not having the clear answer do we move forward? An understanding of a committee space is to what it will be turning into, the Wolf Ave site is not big enough if we are to do it right. So set a date for a vote, however, we are writing the question, so we can move have some direction as to what direction we need to move to. Question(s); A: do you want the facility? Is it

just a community center and media center? And we need to get these answers before we can move any further, and I think we need a date in August.

Betkoski; Joe what do you think?

Joe Rodorigo; permission from the board to talk, Bielik, yes you may talk.

Rodorigo; I don't think you need a vote to the public, let's have a public forum and ask the public what they would like to be done. Invite all the entity involved and ask them what they want? Krenesky: I think that is a great idea. Betkoski; I think it a great idea to have a public forum to ask the public what they would like. Think we should set up a public meeting. Bielik; Maybe around May, and after the budget vote passes, god willing it goes through.

Motion to set a public hearing 7:00 PM at the Region 16 site that is available for a meeting on Community Media Center Building; Krenesky/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.

Motion to accept the report from the Community Media Center Building Committee as submitted for tonight's meeting; Krenesky/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.

- e. Report of the Grant Writer none, and we have a new grant writer and already seeing positive changes.

20. Correspondence

1. Two invoices from the clerk were received for the BOS meetings – one from 03/12/2018 one from 03/26/2018 Public Hearing.

Motion to approve and pay the clerk for the two invoices as submitted for tonight's meeting; Betkoski/Krenesky; no discussion; all ayes

2. From the United Day School on March 22, annual lemonade stand, past 8 years hosted the lemonade stand, and use the Beacon Hose Parking lot July 18th 10:30 - 1:30 and the funds will go a local charity; **Motion to approve; Betkoski/Krenesky; no discussion; all ayes.**
3. Two emails Thomas Grever 525 Burton Rd, Formal request to be considered to the community committee building center as a liaison. Has lived in the town for 13 years has a Master in public administration with a finance background. Followed up by an email from the Library Board Chairmen Denzel Smith, endorsing Mr. Graver's request for the appointment. Was discussed in the March library board meeting.
4. Steve Moffett, a member of our Public Works, the parks division, requesting that if a vacancy should occur that he should be considered on

the Parks and Rec board, he would be valuable to the commission. Bielik; request from our town Attorney and see if he could be on the board, the only board that is called out on the stature by a municipal employee is the on the board of finance. So the attorney feels there is no conflict with his request to serve in that capacity, but at this time we don't have any vacancies and keep the request on file.

Betkoski; Please let him know there are no vacancies at this time.

5. Letter from Beacon Hose Company, Chief DeGeorge recently learned about the resignation of the Fire Marshall, Eddy Rodriguez and respectfully request that the Board of Selectmen sponsor myself and Captain Cal Brennan for Fire Marshals training, both Captain Brennan and I understand the level of training and the number of hours involved in taking on the important role. In CT State Stature #29-2907 appointment of local fire Marshall, etc. it stipulates that preference shall be given to a member of a regular or volunteer department municipality. Betkoski; do we have to act on that tonight? Bielik; no we do not but will hold it for now.

21. Old Business

a. Accounting Software RFPs – discussion and Possible Action

Bielik; On March 28th we had a presentation of the two vendors, finance manage we should purchase from Accue fund. Motion to approve the purchase of the accue fund software as recommended;

Krenesky/Betkoski; *Krenesky; with the purchase of the software is it with all the modules we had asked for, no add-on cost. Bielik; It includes everything we asked for. Rodorigo; There is an annual fee, they do the patches and upgrades and as they improve the software we are getting them, and it's included in the budget. Betkoski; Is IT all good with this? Rodorigo; it's is not a cloud base system, and IT only need to have the connect ability. All ayes.*

b. Proposed Change in Land Use Permits Ordinance (Zoning Compliance) – Discussion and Possible Action

Bielik; we will postpone until next month

c. Proposed Transfer Station Fee Changes – Discussion and Possible Action

Bielik; we will postpone until next month

Rodorigo; The fee structure the only question with our Zoning Enforcement cost, for his services the cost is \$25.00 but the cost for him is \$32.00 an hour. Bielik; we will take a note of that when we discuss it.

Betkoski; Do we need to have a joint meeting with the Board of Finance for the fee structure change? Rodorigo; BOF has no control over this. Krenesky; It falls on the Board of Selectmen.

22. New Business

a. Appointments

1. Land Use/Open Space – Joe Fitzpatrick – Term Expired 11/08/2016

Bielik; Nothing yet

2. Conservation Commission – to replace Rich Minnick

Bielik; Nothing yet, maybe someone, Laura Grant, is available again.

3. Library Board Rep on CMC Building Commission – to replace Martha Melville

Bielik; we have a volunteer Mr. Thomas Graber

Motion to appoint Thomas Graber to the Library Board Rep on CMC Building Commission; Betkoski; Krenesky; no discussion; **all eyes**

b. Reappointments - NONE

c. The proposed review of road conditions – discussion and Possible Action

Krenesky; Anyone in Bacon Falls who drives on our roads knows we have issues. And what can we do for Beacon Falls for our 150 anniversary. Fixing one or two roads might be a good approach to it. That is not the driver on this, our roads are very bad. The other challenges there are issues on Highland Ave. The road is splitting down the middle and a dip in the road on Highland Ave. and a bump on Highland Ave. Bielik; Nafis' and Young is aware of the cracking issues, they will determine if there is an issue with the company or the material issues. Nafis and Young are on it and doing the work to determine what and who needs to fix it. The contractor or the products and if it was the winter? Betkoski; Not excuses. You covered everything and we do have some money we are holding. Quality control is key in it, asphalt not what it used to be anymore. Everything is green. Bielik;

The last road survey 2008/2010, I think we are long overdue for a material inspection as to what the roads are. Krenesky; Maple Ave is in very bad. It's more than this one street; we need a road program in place. Bielik; There is an approved vendor list, we can reach out to a couple of engineering firms to see if they will like to give us an estimate and prices. Ask three engineering firms and taking a look at it and solicit bids for it.

Joe Rodorigo; I don't think you need an engineer to tell you what roads need to be fixed. The roads have gotten worse from the last survey 10 years ago. We know what roads are bad we don't need an engineering firm \$10,000.00 to tell us. It's about money, and the resources it cost you. It cost 1.1 mils to borrow 4 million to cover 3 miles of road. When the Waste Water treatment comes up to vote you get one bond and identify your roads and ask the public which way to go. We don't carry that much debt, and how much are they willing to carry. We have a plan on how to pay back the 10 million dollars in 10 years, we have the grant writer we hired and let's utilize him. Spending \$10,000.00 to tell us what roads are bad, when we know which ones are bad. Beacon Falls should carry 6-7% debt service at all times, we are moving this forward and this is your road package.
Discussion continued.

d. Revised Ct Energy and Technology Tax Stabilization Agreement – Discussion and Possible Action

Bielik; Everyone has seen the last updated one, I was waiting to hear from the layer on it, there is more dialog between us and the development group, it's not ready to be voted on yet. Some minor modification in the verbiage and then we can call for a special meeting.

23. Budget Transfer Requests

C. Bielik indicated that there is 2 budget transfer request(s) to be addressed tonight and pass along to the Board of Finance for their next monthly meeting.

1. From Line Item 10.90.13.1235 Wage Salary Adjustments in the amount of \$1,001.00 to Line Item 10.90.07.1049, Wages Overtime, in the amount of \$1,001.00; Betkoski/Krenesky; no discussion; all ayes.
2. From Line Item 10.90.83.1170 Contingency in the amount of \$6,418.80 to Line Item 10.90.44.1471, Mandatory Vehicle Testing, in the amount of \$6,418.80; Bielik; Inspection to keep engine 1 in service until other truck was available.; 2nd request; From Line Item 10.90.44.1500 Service Award in the amount of \$4,559.00 to Line item 10.90.44.1466, Equipment Maint, in the amount of \$4,559.00; Bielik; Retirement for BHC, always an estimate went a little high, the anticipated transfer will cover the expected cost for the remainder of the year due to that line item being exhausted. Krenesky; is there an invoice today for

*that? Bielik; There are two invoices that put it over if we don't do the transfer.
Betkoski/Krenesky; all ayes*

24. Public Comment

Joe Rodorigo 42 Bonna St; Reference Fuel Cell, They sent over a schedule and there were multiple problems with the schedule, two BOS would have moved forward with it. It was sent out to the attorney that he didn't pick up mistakes and this is a specialized document and something not everyone does, it should go to a person to a higher level of experience to cover this agreement. That first document left millions of tax dollars on the table. It still hasn't addressed if developed more on the site, and how we would we tax it at that point, should it be the current mill rate or the new mill rate at the time of construction. The reason you do this is to capitalize on the project upfront so you get your money in the rears, you don't give them another 22 years 5 years from now, and you give them the remainder. This is a highly specialize document and we and Fred Stanek are not capable, it needs to go to a different attorney, the company is in the benefit for the company, they created a contract for us to sign, who are they looking out for, they are looking out for their company. And we shouldn't help them and not protect Beacon Falls it is a mistake to use this attorney, we should send it out to a much bigger firm someone that specializes in this and that have a background in this. And I do want to see this document before it gets voted on.

C. Bielik asked three times if there were any further public comments and there were none at this time.

25. Executive Session – Ryan Tarnowicz, Probation period completion – Discussion and Action

Motion; Betkoski/Krenesky; no discussion all ayes; 9:53 enter into executive session. to discuss the end of his probation period Ryan Tarnowicz, of the Waste Water treatment plant

9:58 PM Out of Executive Session;

Motion to approve the promotion of Ryan Tarnowicz to be an operator one with a pay increase from \$19.74 an hour to \$24.64; Betkoski/Krenesky; all ayes

25. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, C. Bielik asked for a motion to adjourn tonight's meeting.

Motion to adjourn tonight's Board of Selectmen meeting at 10:00 P.M.
Betkoski/Krenesky; no discussion; all ayes.

The next regular monthly meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled for Monday, May 14, 2018, starting at 7:30 PM in the Town Hall Assembly Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Joann Overby
Clerk, Board of Selectmen



Pathway to Revitalization

Economic Impacts of Phased
Completion of the Naugatuck River
Greenway Trail



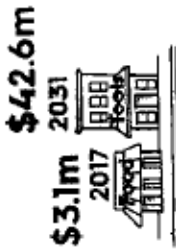
Naugatuck River Corridor Impacts

If completed by 2031, the construction of the Naugatuck River Greenway Trail is estimated to have the following impacts on the area's economy:

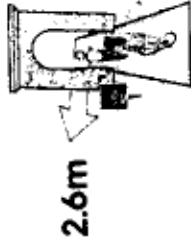
Construction Cost



Annual Direct Spending



Estimated Annual Visits



Cumulative Health Impact



Employment in 2031

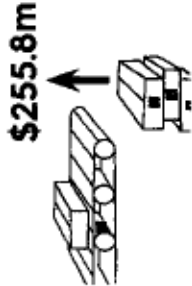
2,830 new jobs



Annual Consumer Surplus



GDP in 2031



Personal Income in 2031



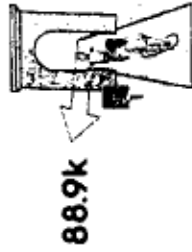
Town of Beacon Falls Impacts

Based on completion of the total NRG trail, the portion of total trail economic impacts attributable to Beacon Falls' trail section are estimated to be as follows:

Construction Cost **Annual Direct Spending**



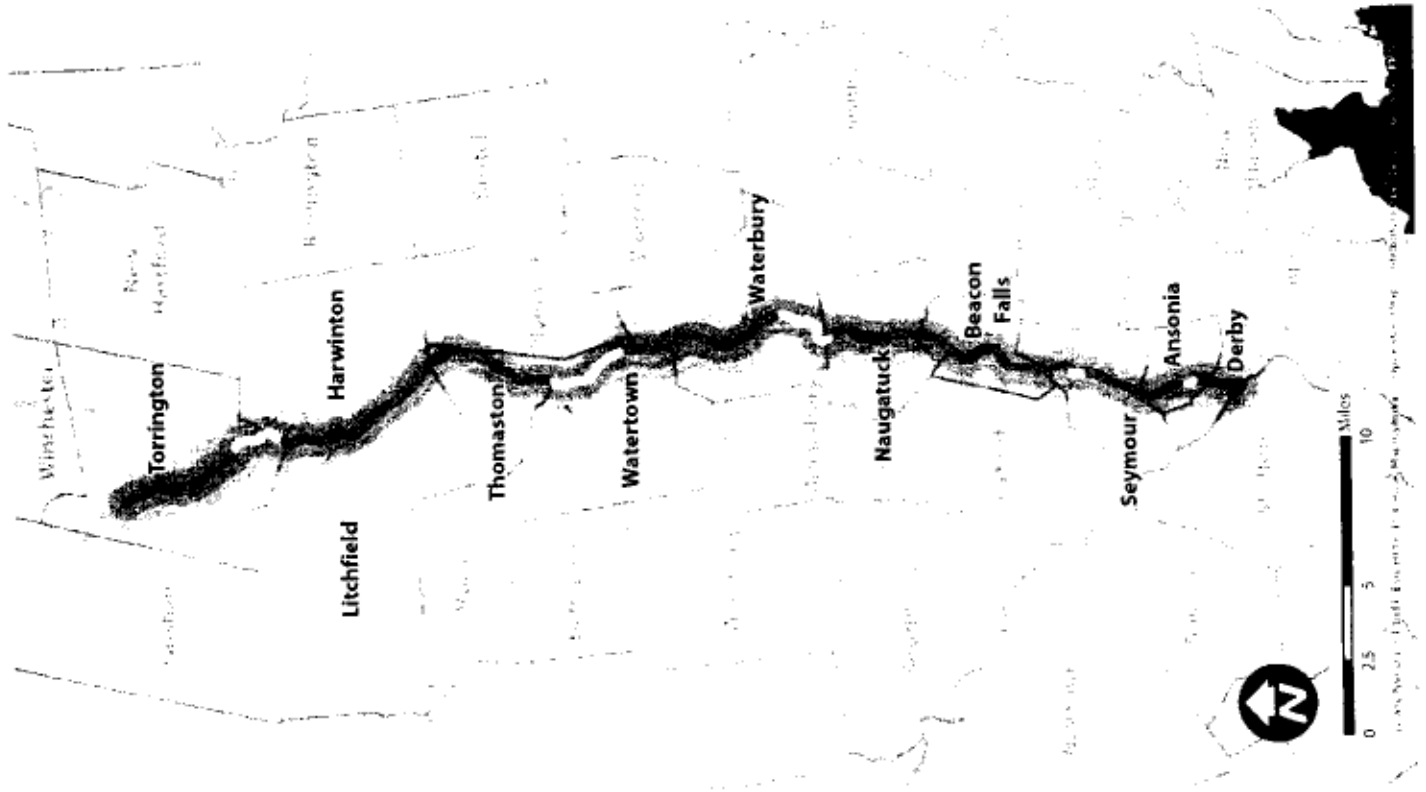
Estimated Annual Visits



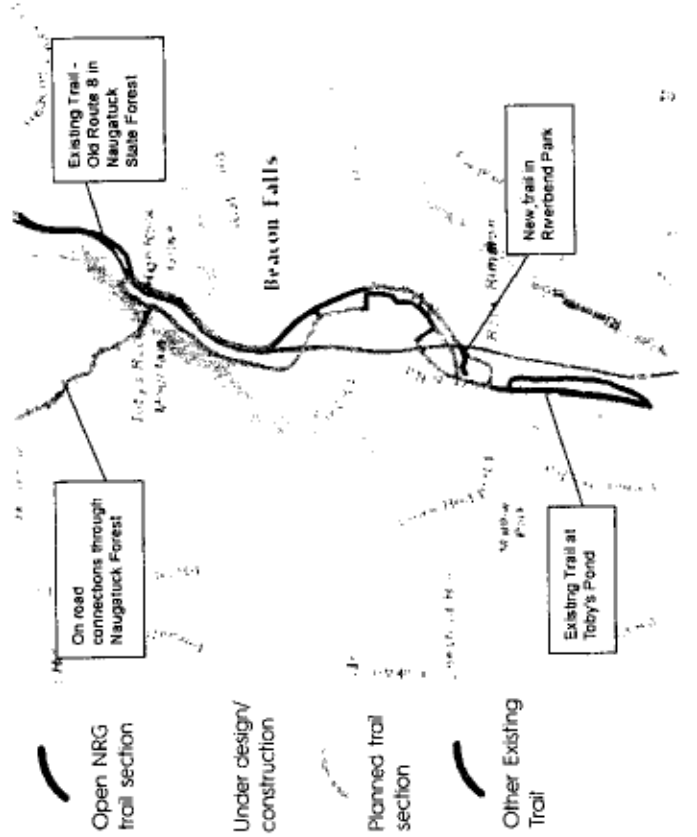
Cumulative Health Impact



CORRIDOR TRAIL PLANNING



TOWN OF BEACON FALLS TRAIL PLANNING



Overview and Definitions

The **Naugatuck River Greenway (NRG)** trail is a planned 44-mile multipurpose trail following the Naugatuck River from Torrington to Derby. When complete, the NRG trail will link 11 municipalities, help reclaim the Naugatuck River for recreation, provide an alternate mode of transportation, support tourism and economic development in the region, and improve residents' quality of life.

Overseen by the Naugatuck River Greenway Steering Committee, the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments (NVCOG) and the Connecticut Center for Economic Analysis (CCEA) at UConn, with support from UConn Extension, conducted an economic impact study of the development of the NRG. The study addresses the primary question: "How will communities and residents along the Naugatuck River benefit from their investment in building the proposed trail?" The study involved a literature review, collection of new quantitative and qualitative primary data through trail counts, a trail user intercept survey and three focus groups, as well as deployment of the Regional Economic Impact Model (REM) to estimate total economic impacts of the proposed trail.

All figures presented assume complete trail buildout in 2030 following an aggressive construction schedule. The local community impacts presented herein were disaggregated from the total trail figures based on estimated completed trail use.

Construction Cost: Estimated financial cost of construction of the planned trail (in 2016 dollars).

Direct Spending: Visitor spending related to trail use, estimated at approximately \$14 per visit from local survey data.

Estimated Annual Visits: Estimated using current trail use data collected on open sections of trail and converted to a per-mile figure.

Health Impact: The value of extended lifespans attributable to improved health and avoided disease resulting from increased physical activity.

Consumer Surplus: the value that consumers are willing to pay over and above what they actually pay for consumption of a good or to participate in an activity, calculated based on avoided transportation costs. These surpluses are often reflected in increased property values.

Employment, GDP and Personal Income: Measure of impact on the wider economy that the direct economic impacts will have, as calculated by the Regional Economic Impact Model (REM). All figures are the impacts to the economy in 2031 with construction of the trail as compared to a base scenario without construction of the NRG Trail.



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The Naugatuck River Steering Committee oversaw this study, and consists of members from all 11 municipalities along the NRG: Torrington, Harwinton, Litchfield, Thomaston, Watertown, Waterbury, Naugatuck, Beacon Falls, Seymour, Ansonia and Derby, along with regional, state, and federal officials and other stakeholders.

For more information, visit NVCOG's website at: www.nvcogct.org or contact Aaron Budris, Senior Planner, at abudris@nvcogct.org

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2018

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