

3/22/17 Rail Trail Implementation Committee (RTIC) meeting – Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Attendees:

Peter Spellios – Selectman liaison

Pete Kane – Town Planner

Terry Dansdill, committee member

Roger Talkov, committee member

Jen Honig, committee member

Mark Barden, committee member

Alexis Runstadler, committee member

Ryan Conner, architect, volunteer to committee assisting with design

Christine Tierney - guest

Matt Dragani - guest

Christine is a Nason Rd. abutter. She is trying to understand what it is and how it will affect them. She is also a realtor. She is interested in what is going on.

Questions about the committee process from Christine and Matt:

What is relationship b/n town mtg and this committee re this project? Peter S. describes general process.

What is time frame? We aren't sure. We don't know how long the surveying will take. There is also topography work, walking the trail to address its features, and title work.

Questions about how to put trail down if narrow, deep, close to other things like the batting cage? That will be part of the process – it's what the designers need to address. Through engineering the committee will plot where the trail will go. Trail property is about 60 feet wide.

Lights? No.

Can town exercise eminent domain? Yes.

The RTIC will plan public forums so we and selectmen can get input from town members.

For Matt and Christine, we reviewed our posting of meeting minutes and notice of meetings.

New business:

Pete Kane's recommendations for what to do b/f town meeting. 3 things to do– each a group of 2-3 working w/ Pete.

- 1) Web site – Alexis & Jen
- 2) Town meeting member outreach – Mark & Terry
- 3) Public info meetings – at least 2. Roger and Mark

Rail trail forums will be April 13 and May 2 – likely at high school.

Use boards and paper so people can access material.

Explain the warrant article; describe the process, expected timeframes, and points of input.

Talk about the info we got thus far from conversations with townspeople.

Put info on warrant article on web.

We want to get imagery from Ryan.

Maybe play Thighs of Steel – trail video by John Bonner at forum.

Ryan reports that he collected GIS data from Pete and Gregory – collected w/ topo so have base plan. Ryan and Greg have walked 2 sections. Difficult w/o edges flagged to know where you can go. Places like where trail goes straight but perhaps trail can go around onto public land. For ex., near ball field. Have easement over that portion of woods. Also, at Farragut Road where substation is. Won't go up the embankment. Maybe there are alternatives there on N-grid property and/or on DPW land. But we use the corridor as the starting point. We can't say now any deviations. We don't need this level of detail for town meeting. We can't finalize b/f engineer does his or her work. Best now is to do some concept illustrations for town meeting, particularly concept drawings of crossings. Ryan will later work w/ the surveyor. There are 3 steps in future – survey, plotting, and building.

Christine asks about authorizing funds for something uncertain. A trail study has already shown that building the trail is possible. We need the funds to do the research to determine exactly where trail will go within the corridor.

Christine reported that people are discussing the warrant on Facebook and asking why money couldn't be used for other purposes like education. The fact is that this money cannot be simply allocated for another purpose. These funds can only be used for one-time revenue and not for recurring expenses.

Additionally, we should highlight that we would be getting 150,000 square feet of open space for a 10 ft path for the money.

Next mtg 4/12 at 6 p.m.

Adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

