



# RUTLAND REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

## DELAWARE & HUDSON RAIL TRAIL COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2024, 6:00 PM

### MEETING DETAILS

Virtual: Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 247 529 380 630

Passcode: r57FLZ

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

Or call in (audio only) [+1 802-440-1368](tel:+18024401368), [893509525#](tel:+18024401368)

In-Person: 16 Evelyn St. (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor) Rutland, VT 05701

### ATTENDANCE (X = in person) (V = virtual attendance)

MUNICIPALITY/ORG	REPRESENTATIVE	
Castleton	Matt Brown - Chairperson	X
Poultney Village	-	
Poultney Town	Philip Wattenbarger	V
Granville Village	Dwayne Daigle	X
Granville Town	-	
Pawlet	Frank Nelson- Vice Chairperson	X
Rupert	John LaVecchia	V
Salem	-	
Poultney Area Chamber of Commerce	-	
Lakes Region Area Chamber of Commerce	Greg	
Granville Area Chamber of Commerce	-	
Chamber of Economic Development of the Rutland Region	-	
Slate Valley Trails (Ex-Officio)	Dylan Daigle	V
Vermont Association of Snow Travelers	-	
Bennington County Regional Planning Commission	Jim Henderson	
Rutland Regional Planning Commission	Nic Stark - Secretary	X

In-Person Guests: Tom Clark (Salem)

Virtual Guests:

Staff: Ethan Pepin (RRPC)

### MEETING MINUTES



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## 1. CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS

Matt Brown called the meeting to order at 6 PM

## 2. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING'S DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Frank Nelson makes a motion to accept the draft minutes, Dwayne Daigle seconds, ayes have it.

## 3. UPDATES FROM STATE, MUNICIPAL, AND CHAMBER MEMBERS

**Castleton:** Castleton University has cleared a section of land that abuts the Rail Trail right of way.

**Pawlet:** W. Pawlet Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative Grant – Site Visit to place amenities took place. Jessica Van Oort is leading the project. Still questions about ownership of the old freight building.

**Poultney:** Nic Stark talked about reporting tool from VTrans, will send out via the mailing list. Matt Brown suggested a QR code sign linking to the reporting tool be added to kiosks. Phillip Wattenbarger reported that the old D&H Depot building has been sold and will be developed into a new restaurant.

**Granville:** No updates.

**Rupert:** Jim Henderson did get sign specs from VTRANS and will get updated sign estimates. Hoping to have quotes in the next week or so for the parking area and others. Adjacent property owner wants the prospective parking lot moved to other side of the road from where it was staked out.

## 4. ETHAN PEPIN: ASH TREE INVENTORY

Ethan presented on the Emerald Ash Borer infestation and the data collected by an RRPC intern. Tom Clark brought up issues with non-native cherry trees. Ethan explained that the state of Vermont has started developing hazard mitigation planning around the infestation. There are 582 ash trees between Castleton and Poultney.

## 5. TRAIL USAGE DATA COLLECTION DISCUSSION

Nic Stark reported that neither VAST nor SVT had counters or capacity to conduct counts on the DHRT. Dwayne Daigle makes a motion to implement the counter plan presented to the council last month to begin in October, Philip Wattenbarger seconds, ayes have it.

## 6. MISSING LINK UPDATE

No updates.

## 7. OTHER BUSINESS

Nic Stark announces he's meeting with the consultant hired by VTrans to develop the Rail Trail Management Plan at end of the week.

A rep from Local Motion (a VT bike/ped advocacy group) will present at the next meeting on the Western New England Greenway Project.

Frank brings up the need for public restrooms on the trail.



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### 8. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Tom Clark posited that the flooding in Salem is what ended the viability of the rail line. He shared photos he took of previous flooding events and explained that the White Creek in W. Rupert is going to continue to cause issues. Nic Stark to investigate UVM flooding simulation software. The council will look into putting flood mitigation into the upcoming rail trail management plan.

### 9. ADJOURNED

Frank Nelson makes a motion to adjourn, Dwayne seconded, ayes have it.

*Respectively submitted by Nic Stark*