



# RUTLAND REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

## DELAWARE & HUDSON RAIL TRAIL COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2024, 6:00 PM

### MEETING DETAILS

In-Person: Rutland Regional Planning Commission Office | 16 Evelyn Street (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor) Rutland, VT 05701

Virtual: Microsoft Teams meeting

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

MUNICIPALITY/ORG	REPRESENTATIVE	
Castleton	Matt Brown - Chairperson	V
Poultney Village	-	
Poultney Town	Philip Wattenbarger	V
Granville Village	Dwayne Daigle	V
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 Parke	
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

### Staff:

**Virtual Guests:** Jackie Cassino (VTrans) William Gray (VTrans)



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## MEETING MINUTES

### 1. CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS

Matt Brown called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM

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

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

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

**Castleton:** No updates, everything seems good.

**Pawlet:** No updates, amenities still being worked on. Parking lot has been full on weekends.

**Poultney:** No updates.

**Granville:** N/A

**Rupert:** A few hurdles with parking area construction, currently on hold. VOREC grant has been extended to 6/30/25.

**VTrans:** Gates have been opened on northern end. Aiming to open southern end by next Monday (12/16) at the latest. In Castleton, VTrans will be adding signs to prevent folks from obstructing the gates by parking too close which would prevent emergency services from accessing the trail. New trailhead kiosk for Castleton is still on the docket. Jackie has been in contact with Town of Poultney about their Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant project looking at flood mitigation around the Poultney River bridge along the DHRT.

### 4. TRAIL FRIENDLY BUSINESS PROGRAM UPDATE (JACKIE CASSINO – VTRANS)

Jackie presented on the VT Rail Trail Program's Trail Friendly Business Program. Philip inquired about adding a QR code on the trails to survey users, Jackie explained this is something they've done on other trails and will be rolling out to all the trails in the future.

### 5. TRAIL MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

Nic and Jackie updated the council on the development of the DHRT Public Input Tool and paper flyer. Request was made of Council Members to share local or regional events and organizations that



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should be prioritized in the engagement phase of the plan development.

6. CHRIS PRITCHARD LETTER

Frank makes the motion to send the draft letter, Phillip seconded the motion, ayes have it.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

Frank brings up Open Meeting Law and will share any changes to the law that would affect the Council.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Frank poses the question of how to increase public participation in our regular meetings.

9. ADJOURNED

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

*Respectively submitted by Nic Stark*