



# RUTLAND REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

## DELAWARE & HUDSON RAIL TRAIL COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2025, 6:00 PM

**ATTENDANCE** (X = in person, V = virtual attendance)

MUNICIPALITY/ORG	REPRESENTATIVE	
Castleton	Matt Brown - Chairperson	
Poultney Village	-	
Poultney Town	Philip Wattenbarger	
Granville Village	Dwayne Daigle	
Granville Town	-	
Pawlet	Frank Nelson - Vice Chairperson	V
Rupert	John La Vecchia	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	Olivia Bucksbaum	
Slate Valley Trails (Ex-Officio)	Dylan Daigle	V
Vermont Association of Snow Travelers	-	
Bennington County Regional Planning Commission	Jim Henderson	V
Rutland Regional Planning Commission	Nic Stark - Secretary	X
Rutland Regional Planning Commission	Sean Beatty	X
VTrans Rail Trail Program	Jackie Cassino	V

**Staff:**

**Virtual Guests:** Representative Chris Pritchard

**Public:**

### MEETING MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS

Frank Nelson called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM

2. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING'S DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Jim Henderson makes a motion to accept the draft minutes, Nic Stark seconds, ayes have it.

3. UPDATES FROM STATE, MUNICIPAL, AND CHAMBER MEMBERS

Castleton: N/A

Poultney: Nic reported on an issue with snow banks encroaching on the trail that was reported by multiple trail users, Jackie reported that she had productive conversations with the property owner



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and municipality. Jackie relayed that Danny at Reclaimed expressed interest in getting involved with the rail trail.

Slate Valley Trails: Nothing to report, Dylan requested an update on efforts to contact Jim Letts in Salem.

Granville: N/A

Pawlet: Nothing to report

Rupert: John reported that Jackie attended the Rupert Select Board meeting and gave an overview of the State Rail Trail program and future efforts. Jackie offered to give the same type of presentation to any municipality. The Select Board requested another mobile trail counter at a different location on the trail.

State: We should expect the results from the wayfinding signing scoping study by February. The new trail counter dashboard is up and running but is not publicly available, data is available upon request.

RRPC: Nic reports he's been having trouble finding a contractor to pour the concrete pads for the VOREC amenities. Jim suggests hiring the road crews to do the work as a backup plan. Maps are available for distribution.

BCRPC: Jim will ask the Rupert Town Green Committee to stake out where they want the amenities installed from the VOREC grant. Nic and Jim to meet to coordinate contractor for both W. Pawlet and Rupert.

## 4. TRAIL MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

Jackie reports that the plan has been delayed but draft goals, action items, and strategies are expected for review by the councils before the holidays for review before the January meeting.

## 5. ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS

Nic reported that he has been working on the concept that Frank brought up at the previous meeting to product an Economic Impact Analysis for the DHRT that includes several scenarios taking into account the fractured nature of the current trail.

## 6. MISSING LINK UPDATE

Nic reported that he has updated the internal DHRT Timeline document that acts as a repository for all information on the development of the rail trail including legal documents related to the contested properties in NY.

Frank brings up that the contested land has a new sign on it advertising land for rent.

Annora confirmed the existence of the sign and brought up that the concern of trespassing was the number one cited issue by property owners in previous discussions around the rail trail. Discussion ensured talking about gathering some hard data on how many incidents occur across the trails in VT and getting more information together about how enforcement is handled on both sides.

## 7. OTHER BUSINESS

Nic reported on his work produced a proposal for reusing old discarded rail as material for bike racks.



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## 8. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Frank gave a brief update on the potential upcoming ramifications of changes to the Open Meeting Law in regards to ADA.

Representative Chris Pritchard brought up the W. Pawlet Turkey Reintroduction plaque. All parties agreed to collaborate to move the project forward.

## 9. ADJOURNED

John LaVecchia made a motion to adjourn, Jim Henderson seconded, and the ayes have it.

*Respectively submitted by Nic Stark*