



RUTLAND REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

DELAWARE & HUDSON RAIL TRAIL COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2026, 6:00 PM

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	X
Granville Town	-	
Pawlet	Frank Nelson - Vice Chairperson	X
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	
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	
VTrans Rail Trail Program	Jackie Cassino	V

Staff:

Virtual Guests: Jim Letts, Annora McGarry

Public: Elaine Daigle

MEETING MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS

Matt Brown called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM

2. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING'S DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Jim Henderson makes a motion to accept the draft minutes, without opposition the minutes are approved.

3. UPDATES FROM STATE, MUNICIPAL, AND CHAMBER MEMBERS

Castleton: Matt has been out on the trail daily and maintenance is up to date.

Poultney: Some snowmobiling on trail. Phillip shared that the Town of Poultney passed its ATV/UTV ordinance allowing for use on all Town highways and roads.



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Slate Valley Trails: N/A

Granville: A bit of snowmobiling as well. Dwayne hopes to find the name of a DOT employee he spoke with last year that may hold some answers about routing the trail.

Pawlet: Nothing to report.

Rupert: John has seen moderate winter use on the trail. Jim Henderson requested John get him a slot in an upcoming town green meeting to site the bike rack and fix-it station.

State: Jackie announced the April 18 Fish & Wildlife event unveiling the plaque commemorating the historic successful reintroduction of wild turkeys in the area. Friday, May 8 is the Walk Bike Summit in Bennington.

RRPC: Nic reports he's been mostly working on administrative tasks.

BCRPC: Jim Henderson went out skiing a few weekends ago and didn't see many other tracks.

Salem: Jim Letts, Executive Director of Salem Art Works provided some background of what's happening politically in Salem. Noting no current appetite in Salem for a trail due to likely opposition and the town supervisor prioritizing a sewer project.

4. TRAIL MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

Nic invites all to send any updates or edits to the draft documents to him via e-mail (nic@rutlandrpc.org) by January 23.

Discussion of the draft documents ensued touching on fundraising, insurance, trail crossings, developing a prioritization formula for action items, municipal leases, trash receptacles, and events.

5. WAYFINDING SCOPING STUDY RESULTS

Jackie shared a presentation on the results of the wayfinding scoping study that identified ideal locations for wayfinding signage along the trail for the [Trail Friendly Business Program](#). The DHRT is in need of a comprehensive signage inventory project which will begin this summer. Annora McGarry inquired about NYS side signage and updating the web map to properly relay the current status of the Granville section of the trail. Jackie would want to engage counterparts in NYS to promote connections and businesses on that side of the border.

6. ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS

Nic reported that there are no current opportunities to fund an analysis through VTrans funding. However, there are aspirations to conduct these analyses statewide for each rail trail in the future.

7. MISSING LINK UPDATE

No updates from Nic.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

Jim Henderson made a motion to re-elect the current slate of officers for 2026 (Matt Brown | Chair, Frank Nelson | Vice-Chair, Nic Stark | Secretary), Dwayne Daigle seconded the motion, it passed unanimously.



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Nic brought up that there were two kiosks available, one of which would be installed in West Pawlet to replace the current one. Nic Stark made a motion to install the kiosks in West Pawlet trailhead and at the Bentley Ave. trailhead in Poultney.

John LaVecchia shared that a PBS documentary screening on the rail to trails movement in Burlington on January 21st.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

None.

10. ADJOURNED

Frank Nelson made a motion to adjourn, John LaVecchia seconded, and the ayes have it.

Respectively submitted by Nic Stark