



# RUTLAND REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

## DELAWARE & HUDSON RAIL TRAIL COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, March 14, 2026, 6:00 PM

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

MUNICIPALITY/ORG	REPRESENTATIVE	
Castleton	Matt Brown - Chairperson	
Poultney Village	-	
Poultney Town	Philip Wattenbarger	<b>V</b>
Granville Village	Dwayne Daigle	
Granville Town	-	
Pawlet	Frank Nelson - Vice Chairperson	<b>X</b>
Rupert	John La Vecchia	<b>V</b>
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	<b>V</b>
Vermont Association of Snow Travelers	-	
Bennington County Regional Planning Commission	Jim Henderson	<b>V</b>
Rutland Regional Planning Commission	Nic Stark - Secretary	<b>X</b>
Rutland Regional Planning Commission	Sean Beatty	
VTrans Rail Trail Program	Jackie Cassino	<b>V</b>

**Staff:**

**Virtual Guests:**

**Public:** Ashley Strobridge

### MEETING MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS

Frank Nelson called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM

2. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING’S DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

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

3. SLATE VALLEY MUSEUM – WALKING WITH HISTORY 2026 PLAN

Ashely Strobridge presented the plan for guided walks held on the DHRT during the 2026 season.



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

Castleton: N/A

Poultney: Snow is gone on trail. Some discussion of developments of Green Mountain Campus ensued.

Slate Valley Trails: N/A

Granville: N/A

Pawlet: N/A

Rupert: John reported that Chris Pritchard will be attending the April 18 Fish & Wildlife event unveiling the plaque commemorating the historic successful reintroduction of wild turkeys in the area.

State: Jackie thanked the Council for their input to the Trail Friendly Business Program and POI datasets for the wayfinding installs later this year. May 8 is the Walk Bike Summit in Bennington. Nic agreed to post some flyers for the event on the DHRT.

RRPC: N/A

BCRPC: Jim Henderson requested if anyone knows of any concrete installers a contractor is needed for the VOREC amenities grant. Philip provided the contact info for a local contractor.

Salem: N/A

## 5. 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](mailto:nic@rutlandrpc.org)).

The next meeting will be primarily dedicated to producing prioritization scores for each of the Action Items.

Nic expressed intent to revisit the engagement survey and ensure nothing was falling through the cracks.

Jackie offered to present the plan to an upcoming regional Transportation Advisory Council (TAC) meeting and the Rupert Selectboard.

## 6. TRAIL FRIENDLY BUSINESS PROGRAM UPDATE

No updates, shelved discussion of Granville POI and TFBP businesses until next meeting when Granville Rep is present.

## 7. MISSING LINK UPDATE

No updates.

## 8. OTHER BUSINESS

A request of Reps to provide input on which gates should be opened vs closed and let Jackie know if any segments are experiencing ATV use.



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John requested information on new private access across the rail trail in Rupert. Jackie provided more information about deeded crossings.

Dylan shared that the Vermont Mountain Bike Association (VMBA) had been approached by Pixel Trail with a suite of trail management apps.

## 9. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

None.

## 10. ADJOURNED

John LaVecchia made a motion to adjourn, Philip Wattenbarger seconded, and the ayes have it.

*Respectively submitted by Nic Stark*