



RUTLAND REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

DELAWARE & HUDSON RAIL TRAIL COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, July 8, 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	
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	-	
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	V
Rutland Regional Planning Commission	Nic Stark - Secretary	X
VTrans Rail Trail Program	Jackie Cassino	V

Staff:

Virtual Guests:

Public: Guest of Dwayne Daigle

MEETING MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS

Matt Brown called the meeting to order at approximately 6:01 PM. Members introduced themselves around the room and on screen.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Dwayne Daigle and seconded by Frank Nelson to adopt the agenda. Approved without opposition.

3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

A motion to approve the previous meeting minutes was made by Frank Nelson and seconded by Jim Henderson. Approved without opposition.



RUTLAND REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

4. UPDATES FROM STATE, MUNICIPAL, AND CHAMBER MEMBERS

Castleton: Only issue reported by Matt is that early season trail surface softness means that equestrian users leave marks that sometimes take weeks to fill in. Suggests signs that ask users to turn back if they're leaving marks.

Poultney: N/A

Granville: Dwayne reported that he is continuing to work with State officials on exploring why the Missing Link cannot be opened through alternative routes.

Pawlet: Frank reported that the flags set by Jim Henderson were slightly moved to accommodate the temporary moving of the benches and picnic tables.

Rupert: John and Jim Henderson are coordinating installation of the concrete pads and bike repair stations.

Salem: N/A

Slate Valley Trails: Nothing to report. Invited folks to volunteer or attend the Slate Valley Epic Race.

BCRPC: Jim Henderson reported a contractor has been acquired to pour the concrete pads and install the bike repair stations and hitches in West Pawlet and Rupert. The sites have been staked out. Jim also asked Julie Mach, who is administering the grant, what remaining funds are to potentially add more benches and signage.

RRPC: Nothing to report.

VTrans: Jackie Cassino shared that a comprehensive sign inventory is underway. Wayfinding and Trail Friendly Business signage will be installed soon. The first round of mowing is complete with another round taking place later in July. The draft management plan public comment period is open until the end of July. The annual user survey will be distributed later this month and remain open through September. Economic impact studies will start in the fall and continue into 2027. VTrans tested a Harley rake this spring on the southern D&H trail to manage vegetation.

5. TRAIL MANAGEMENT PLAN PRIORITIZATION WORKSHOP

Nic brought up the limited responses received in scoring the action items from the Trail Management Plan. The Council reps agreed to fill out the spreadsheets to improve the representation of the towns in the prioritization of items for the workplan of the year ahead.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

Nic brought up an area in Poultney Village that could potentially be improved by allowing the area to grow wild as opposed to being mowed. Nic asked others to let him know where other locations along the trail might be improved in a similar way to be included in research on feasibility.

Frank requested updates on connections between the rail trail and Slate Valley Trails.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Frank requested an update on the Green Mountain College campus.

8. ADJOURNED



RUTLAND REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Frank Nelson made a motion to adjourn, Dwayne Daigle seconded. Motion carried without opposition.

Respectively submitted by Nic Stark