



RUTLAND REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

DELAWARE & HUDSON RAIL TRAIL COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, September 9, 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 & Border Riders Snowmobile Club	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	
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	

Staff:

Virtual Guests:

Public: Elaine 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 Jim Henderson 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 Dwayne Daigle and seconded by Jim Henderson. Approved without opposition.



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4. UPDATES FROM STATE, MUNICIPAL, AND CHAMBER MEMBERS

Castleton: VSU Castleton is back in session and the trail is seeing high usage from students.

Poultney: Philip reports seeing lots of activity on the trail during the past month.

Granville: Dwayne has reached out to contacts at NYS to follow up to their visit to the trail.

Pawlet: Frank reported the bench and picnic table on the town owned land by the West Pawlet trailhead are set back far and he isn't sure if the public knows that they can use them.

Rupert: John reported that the Town Green Committee have been busy but he has heard good response to the new amenities installed. John inquired about the specific rules surrounding dogs on the trail. Nic relayed that pets are required to be leashed at all times.

Salem: N/A

Slate Valley Trails: N/A

BCRPC: Jim Henderson reported that all the concrete pads and amenities had been installed in West Pawlet and Rupert. Jim was having trouble sourcing benches to buy with the VOREC grant funds, several members agreed to help out in the coming days before the grant expires at the end of the month. Jim also reported that he had attended a meeting in Manchester on the cross-Vermont mountain bike trail, the Velomont, and relayed his efforts to reiterate the importance of the Velomont team to consider utilizing the rail trails in the state, as well as class 4 and existing town trail systems. Jim reported on efforts in Dorset to raise funds to purchase multiple properties to add to the town's recreation assets.

RRPC: Nic reported he has posted flyers for the annual DHRT Trail User Survey on each of the trailhead kiosks. He also dropped off brochures and a flyer at the Slate Valley Museum. Nic relayed an update from Ashley Strobridge of the Slate Valley Museum that she's completed 9 of 11 of the historic walks on the DHRT and has received good feedback from attendees. Nic provided an update on the re-wilding effort of the stretch of land north of Church Street in Poultney. Discussion held about the potential to plant some trees along that strip next year.

VTrans: N/A

5. RRPC DHRT WORK PLAN UPDATE

Nic thanked everyone for providing their priority scores and that the top action items had been approved by the RRPC Transportation Program Lead and VTrans. He will present on the Work Plan draft at the next meeting.

6. ANNUAL TRAIL USER SURVEY

Nic offered to print out copies of the survey flyer for reps to post in their town. Nic will include materials in the recap email. Frank brought up the idea of building a mailing list and including a field to collect emails on the survey next year.

7. SELECT BOARD MEET AND GREETINGS

Nic relayed that Jackie is planning to visit municipal bodies along the DHRT to present on the work the Rail Trail Program and Council have achieved, share trail usage data and preview what work is coming down the pipeline.



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8. OTHER BUSINESS

Frank brought up the issue of folks not knowing whether the bench and picnic table on the town owned property. Discussion included whether the town road crew could be tapped to move the bench and table back into a more inviting location and whether signage informing the public about the mini park could be added to the trailhead or land itself.

Frank brought up that the building originally identified and deemed unsuitable for development into a trailside amenity as part of the VOREC grant has been fixed up and may serve as a good opportunity to revisit as a trailside resource. Nic to inquire with Jackie how structures adjacent to the rail trails elsewhere in the state operate as trailside infrastructure.

Nic inquired as to who had put the port-o-pot at the Main Street trailhead in Castleton, Matt offered to investigate.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

None

10. ADJOURNED

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

Respectively submitted by Nic Stark