

**Central NH Regional Planning Commission**  
28 Commercial Street, Suite #3  
Concord, NH, 03301  
Tel: (603) 226-6020  
Fax: (603) 226-6023  
[www.cnhrpc.org](http://www.cnhrpc.org)



**CNHRPC Full Commission Meeting**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, June 14, 2018**  
**7:00pm**

**Attendees:** Michael O’Meara, Town of Allenstown  
Rhoda Hardy, Town of Boscawen  
Stephen Buckley, Town of Bow  
Harry Wright, Town of Bradford  
Jim Bibbo, Town of Bradford  
Tyson Miller, Town of Canterbury  
Hillary Nelson, Town of Canterbury  
Matthew Hicks, City of Concord  
Ken Swayze, Town of Dunbarton  
Betsy Bosiak, Town of Epsom  
Gary Sparks, Town of Hillsborough  
Susanne White, Town of Hillsborough  
Clarke Kidder, Town of Hopkinton  
Bob Cole, Town of Loudon  
Kathy Cruson, Town of Pembroke  
Clayton Wood, Town of Pittsfield  
Jim Pritchard, Town of Pittsfield  
Joe Schmidl, Town of Salisbury  
Emilio Cancio-Bello, Town of Sutton  
Ken Milendar, Town of Warner  
Craig Fournier, Town of Webster  
Tim Blagden, Concord-Lake Sunapee Rail Trail

**CNHRPC Staff:** Michael Tardiff, Executive Director  
Dean Williams, Transportation Planner  
Katie Nelson, Regional Planner  
Stephanie Alexander, Senior Planner  
Craig Tufts, Principal Planner/GIS Planner  
Matt Monahan, Senior Planner

The meeting began at 7:04 P.M., called to order by CNHRPC Chair, Tyson Miller (Canterbury).

**Presentation: Tim Blagden, Concord-Lake Sunapee Rail Trail Board President  
Greg Bakos, P.E., Friends of the Merrimack River Greenway Trail Trustee  
Craig Tufts, CNHRPC Principal GIS/Transportation Planner**

**Topic: The story of three Rail Trails in the Central New Hampshire Region- Northern Rail Trail, Merrimack River Greenway Trail and Concord, and Lake Sunapee Rail Trail**

Craig Tufts began the presentation by showing the locations of the three rail trails in the region and how they fit in a statewide context. He then provided information on the Northern Rail Trail, stating that the trail is 58 miles long, has a stone dust surface that is easily accessible, and does not allow any ATVs. He noted that the trail is owned by the State but is managed by the NH Bureau of Trails. He also noted that there are two non-profit organizations associated with the trail who act as stewards of the trail. Craig also described that there is a potential to purchase a section of abandoned railroad in Concord and Boscawen that could be added to the Northern Rail Trail.

Greg Bakos presented on the Merrimack River Greenway Trail, which is proposed to stretch from Pembroke to Boscawen. He stated that the trail will be paved, include a boardwalk over wetland, provide access to the Merrimack River and open space, and only allow non-motorized use. Planning for the trail started in 1990, however, had the first opportunity for funding to perform a feasibility study occurred more recently through Concord 2020. Greg described that the Friends of the Merrimack Greenway Trail was established and is able to receive donations and grants that can be used for development of the trail. However, he did note that it is intended for the City of Concord to own and maintain the trail once completed. To finish his presentation, Greg described that this trail is unique in that it is being built from scratch and not on a previous railroad bed. He stated that the anticipated first step in construction is to build a small piece of the boardwalk that can then show what the trail would be like once completed. However, as he described, the trail would also provide pedestrian access between Manchester Street and Loudon Road that is currently unavailable.

Tim Blagden presented on the Concord-Lake Sunapee Rail Trail, which though is thought of as a continuous trail has been branded in each community. Tim described that along the trail, a user would be able to pass through a downtown area every 45 minutes. Currently, half of the trail is walkable. Tim then described where the trail would pass through in each community. He stated that the current focus is to have highly visible pieces that builds awareness and shows what a continuous trail could be. It is estimated that once the trail is complete, it could bring in \$900,000 annually in tourism.

The presentation was then open to questions for all three trails. The following are points made through questions and the discussions that followed:

- When approaching landowners, Tim described he usually does some research on the owner and tries to find a connection through someone they both mutually know. However, a connection is not always there.
- Once the surface is stonedust, it is ADA accessible. It can also be used by electric wheelchairs.
- Two methods were described that are used to prevent misuse along the trail. The first is to post signs that show what is allowed and what isn't. The second is that the community helps police the trail, meaning that with so much public use there is less opportunity for misuse by someone who wouldn't want to be caught. Tim did note that if needed, cameras can be put up in locations, for example in parking areas, as well as fencing along certain locations.
- Tax benefits are common with adding an easement to a property, such as someone who adds an easement to part of their property that contains part of the trail.

- Tim noted that existing bridges from the railroad bed are inspected by an engineer for safety and often have decks rebuilt or repaired when needed.
- In response to a question regarding the status of the Heritage Trail, Tim noted that little activity is currently occurring regarding the trail.
- Tim noted that the Concord-Lake Sunapee Rail Trail is not planning to link to the Kearsarge-Sunapee Greenway Trail at this point.
- In response to a question about what measures are taken if the volume of bicycles overpowers the volume of pedestrians on a rail trail, Tim noted that this is not a problem they are facing now and are years from having to face a particular problem like this.

## **Business Meeting**

The business meeting began at 7:55 P.M. called to order by CNHRPC Chair, Tyson Miller (Canterbury).

### 1. Introductions

Introductions were made around the room.

### 2. CNHRPC Developments of Regional Impact (DRI) Review Guidelines

Matt Monahan reviewed the CNHRPC DRI Review Guidelines by going through the document and describing each section. He noted that some feedback has already been received, however additional feedback would be appreciated. After a brief discussion with some feedback gathered from those present, it was noted that when regional impact is determined, it means that the other communities are notified as an abutter. Matt also mentioned that a building inspector can determine regional impact for a community. The group was notified that an updated draft will be prepared that includes input from tonight's discussion and from previous input. The revised Guidelines will then be brought back to the Commission at the Fall meeting.

### 3. Minutes of the April 12, 2018 Full Commission Meeting

The minutes were reviewed, and a motion was made to accept the minutes.

*M/S/P Ken Swayze/Steve Buckley/Passed Unanimously*

### 4. Report of the Chair

Tyson Miller stated that FY 2019 officers will be elected later on in agenda. He thanked everyone for his time as Chair and proceeded to the next agenda item.

### 5. Treasurer's Report

Mike Tardiff presented the Treasurer's Report on behalf of Keith Johnson who was unable to attend tonight's meeting. Mike noted staff has been working on closing out a number of projects as the end of the fiscal year approaches, with much of the staff focusing on projects in the transportation program. It is expected to be in the black at the end of the month and expects to break even at the end of the fiscal year.

### 6. West Central Rail Trails Plan - 2018

Craig Tufts described the West Central Rails Trails Plan that is near completion. The Plan started with outreach last year where input was collected. Craig noted that the Plan will assist with Rail Trail development and the grant application process, as well as be used as a resource in local master plan

development. The Plan also includes a vast array of maps that can be used in various other planning projects. Currently staff is working to reach out to snowmobile clubs for final input.

7. Proposed FY 2019 CNHRPC Work Program and Budget

Mike Tardiff presented the proposed Fiscal Year 2019 work program and budget to those present. He noted that there are many projects this year that are coming through after being delayed for various reasons. He noted a few specific projects, including the CommuteSmart NH agreement, Brownfields Program, Turkey River Restoration Plan, Mid-State RCC Plan, Volunteer Driver Program, finishing various local Master Plans, and providing circuit riding services to member communities. Mike also noted that permanent salaries line item in the budget has decreased as one staff member left CNHRPC in April.

*M/S/P Emilio Cancio-Bello/Matthew Hicks/Passed Unanimously*

8. Election of FY 2019 Officers

Matthew Hicks presented the slate of fiscal year 2019 officers as follows:

Harry Wright, Chair  
Tyson Miller, Vice-Chair  
Keith Johnson, Treasurer  
Steve Buckley  
Ken Milender  
Ken Swayze  
Matthew Hicks

*M/S/P Ken Milender/Emilio Cancio-Bello/Passed Unanimously*

9. Other Business

No other business was mentioned.

10. Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:32 P.M.

*M/S/P Steve Buckley/Tyson Miller/Passed Unanimously*