

## MANHAN RAIL TRAIL COMMITTEE MINUTES

March 28, 2022

**ATTENDEES:** John Bator, David Jaffe, Stephen Donnelly, Wendy Hammerle, Barbara LaBombard, Liz Sturgen, Joe Jzewinski, Debbie Windoloski

- The January minutes were approved with a minor alteration to the date.
- Note that the City has ended the policy of remote meetings as of April 1. All future Manhan meetings will be in person from that date forward.
- Joe Jzewinski from Williston and Debbie Windoloski, a landscaper, presented Williston's plan to enhance the planting area next to Tandem Bagel.
  - They will remove the shrubs adjacent to Tandem Bagel as they are too large and are impinging on the building.
  - They will replace the existing shrubs with new native species that will grow to the proper size for that area.
  - Williston will mulch the area and also freshen the mulch around the mural as part of the project.
  - Williston will look into getting a historic plaque for the former railroad station.
  - They will use DigSafe before commencing any digging.
  - They will probably start the project in early May. They may need to close that section of the trail for part of a day during the removal phase of the project. Fortunately we can detour people onto Railroad Street for this short section.
  - We agreed to make a contribution towards paying for the new shrubs. Wendy motioned and Dave seconded that we would contribute up to \$2,500.00 for this purpose. Motion passed unanimously.
  - Wendy and Barb will alert the public to the project through Facebook and our website. Barb will notify the City Council.
- Liz received this email from the Appalachian Mountain Club. The committee is in favor of this proposal.
  - I hope you're doing well. My colleague Kristen Sykes passed on your information to me. As you probably know, the [New England Trail](#), one of the longest hiking trails in our area, has a major geographical barrier: the Connecticut River. I've been looking into creating a new section of the trail to be incorporated into the national scenic trail designation that would use a mix of scenic roads and rail trails – including the Manhan – to connect the Hadley Common and the new trailhead at the soon to be open Mt. Tom North Trailhead Park on East St. I've attached a rough map of the route. I wanted to check in with the Friends of the Manhan to see if you're okay with this idea. I've received permission from Pascommuck Land Trust to use the Old Pascommuck Conservation Area as a trail access point, spoken with Wayne Feiden from the Northampton Sustainability Department, and plan to reach out to DCR regarding this designation as well.

- There will be a work party next week to clear out the brush that John cut near Tandem Bagel.
- We will need to monitor a planter that was installed at the Route 5 end of the trail.
- We have decided to forgo an event for Bike month/week this year. Liz will check if Valley Bike is coordinating an event that we may participate in by giving out information and our leftover bike bells.
- The Park Department has a bench policy that we will also employ. If someone asks to dedicate a new bench on the trail, we will refer them to the policy for details.
- We need some brochures in the Coleman Road kiosk.
- Annette will be leaving the committee. We thank her for her input and hard work. We hope to have a new member soon.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next Manhan Rail Trail Committee meeting will be held on April 25, 2022 starting at 7:00 PM via Zoom. **This meeting will not be remote, it will be in person.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Stephen Donnelly