



Southeast Regional Meeting

Troy Town Hall
Troy, NH
September 6, 2006
7-8:30pm

Meeting Minutes

Welcome and Introductions:

Facilitators- David Ruble, Dave Viale, Sarah Swain, Antioch University New England students working for Antioch New England Institute(ANEI)

Attendees-

Gayle Beaudoin-New Hampshire Horse Council

Dan Bisaccio-Troy Conservation Commission

Glen Shattler-Troy Selectman

Ed Kerman-

Frank Bequart-Metacomet/Monadnock (M/M) Trail

Randy Hull-Ringe Rail Trail

Bob Harkins-Troy resident

Andrew Walters-ATV Watch

Nicolas Bosonetto-Southwest Regional Planning Commission

Dave Viale introduced the project, ANEI's role, and the East Hill Foundation.

Pathways Inventory:

Participants highlighted known public trails with markers on GIS maps. Discussion occurred around trail usage and what could be considered multi-use. A key of marker colors was established to determine different trail usage. Multi-use was the color pink. Multi-use for this meeting was determined to be trails allowing snowmobiles but not ATVs as that is most common.

Other participants discussed and provided contacts where more maps of trails can be found. Randy Hull provided a number of Ringe Rail Trail maps.

Ideal Qualities:

The group brainstormed the following cumulative list of ideal trail qualities.

- Lots of blueberries, blackberries, and raspberries
- Trails properly marked(mileage, maps)
- Consistent surface
- Scenic/Views
- Wetlands
- Hardpack w/ proper drainage
- Historic and cultural sites(arch bridges)
- Railroad mile markers
- Continuous/Connected

- Website of regional trails
- Safe Road crossings
- Quiet
- Wildlife corridors
- Out of site of civilization
- Stream crossings with bridges
- Vegetation maintained
- Loops
- Variety of users(novice-expert)
- Good access(parking, bathrooms, trash)
- Variety of terrain and flora
- Interesting destinations(Mt. peaks)
- Trailhead maps
- Ecosystem interpretation
- Guidebooks

Identify Potential Improvements:

The following improvements were suggested.

- Gap Mountain-South Peak Trail
- Troy RR station to Gap Mt.
- Better stream crossings
- Equestrian bridges for stream crossings
- Website for wildlife spotting, Questing, and Geo-caching
- Preventative maintenance
- Trail protection(landowner easements)
- Rerouting to avoid roads
- Education of trail users
- Seasonal use clarification
- Improved drainage
- Erosion control
- Trail maintenance days

Identify Current Problems (Systemic and Specific):

Participants wrote the following specific concerns for either systemic issues or specific trails.

Systemic

- Restrict motorized use
- Funding sources
- Locked gates on trail
- Poor signage for snowmobile crossings
- Damage and noise caused by ATVs
- Education, Information, Promotion
- Bridges or underpasses needed where trails cross busy highways
- Volunteer network needed to solve problems
- Define multi-use
- Compatible multi-use
- Competing multi-use
- Protection agreements needed when trails cross private land

Specific

- M/M trail reroute S. side of Gap Mt. due to erosion and reroute off Monument Rd. in Richmond
- Erosion on Swanzey class VI roads between Bucket Mill and West Hill Rd.
- Parking-M/M trail on 124
- Railbed-sand at Webb Depot and south on Rand Rd.
- Erosion on Railbed from Troy-Swanzy
- Erosion- class VI West Troy
- Snowmobile crossing signs Rt 12 N of Keene and Rt 202 in Ringe
- Ringe railbed-Rt 202 culvert collapse

Identify Potential Resources:

In the final agenda item, participants created the following list of resources that will be helpful to the trail initiative.

- Association of Conservation Commissions-look at their newsletter
- Resources for Funding- Trails Bureau matching grants, Moose Plates, Public Service grants, “Green” cemeteries, State conservation grants
- Monadnock Conservancy
- Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests
- Youth-Student Conservation Corps, Town Conservation Commission Youth Corps revival, Military, Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts
- Motorized users-Little Monadnock Trail Riders, Snow-Moles
- Schools-get specific contacts, Monadnock Institute of Place-John
- State Parks-Director of the Southern Region
- Artist groups for preservation of natural space and scenery
- East Hill Farm
- Appalachian Mountain Club

Concluding Remarks:

Participants were invited to the next phase of the project. This Visioning meeting will be held on October 10th from 7pm-9pm in the Antioch Community Room at Antioch University New England in Keene, NH at 40 Avon St.



Central Regional Meeting

Keene Public Library
Keene, NH
September 8, 2006
7-8:30pm

Meeting Minutes

Welcome and Introductions:

Facilitators- David Ruble, Dave Viale, Sarah Swain, Antioch University New England students working for Antioch New England Institute(ANEI)

Attendees-

Gayle Beaudoin-New Hampshire Horse Council
Cheryl Burrows-Audubon, Harris Center
Carl Goldknopf-GYENG
Paul Flagley
Steve Russel-Town of Swanzey
Chuck Redfern-Keene City Council
John Bordenet-Keene Conservation Commission
Thom Little-Pathways for Keene
Emily Hague-Monadnock Conservancy
Tom Sintros-KHS, CCP, etc.
Bob Sherwin-Cheshire Walkers

Dave Viale introduced the project, ANEI's role, and the East Hill Foundation.

Ideal Qualities:

The group brainstormed the following cumulative list of ideal trail qualities.

- Scenic/Views
- Ecologically intact
- Trails clearly marked(mileage, maps)
- Various surfaces for different users
- No sand (hard enough for bikes)
- Balanced development
- Connected to other towns
- Safe road crossings
- Stream crossings with bridges
- Well graded crossings
- Fun
- Lots of smiles
- Good access-well marked, safe, large enough
- Multiple access points
- Interesting destinations(Mt. peaks)
- Trailhead maps/maps at every trail
- Wide-enough in congested areas
- Patrolled-trail enforcement
- Respect and communication among users
- Educational/Interpretive opportunities

- Rest areas-bench, water, bathrooms
- Dog trails
- Loops
- No unattended dogs
- No ATVs or motorcycles
- No litter
- Year-round maintenance

Identify Regional Trails:

Participants highlighted known public trails with markers on USGS maps. A key of marker colors was established to determine different trail usage.

Other participants discussed and provided contacts where more maps of trails can be found. Steve Russell provided a couple maps of Swanzey area trails. Gayle Beaudoin provided maps with equestrian trails highlighted in yellow.

Identify Potential Improvements/Concerns:

The following categories of improvements were suggested. Participants then provided specific concerns noted by the bullet points below.

Finances and funding for trail maintenance and acquisition/Start up costs initial investments

- DRED \$ (matching) for trail growth
- Cost for 9/10/12 overpass
- Southwest Regional Planning Commission
- Cost of stone arch bridges

Maintenance, enforcement, and policing

- Trail damage
- Litter on all trails
- West Swanzey-Pine St. area all sand
- Beech Hill
- Garbage at Beaver Brook falls
- Homeless and garbage at Wantastiquit S.F. in Chesterfield
- Keene-Bike path outside of center city need improvement
- Depute citizens to help with enforcement
- Get help from Police Chief Association
- Finding Personal

Lack of value in regional trail network

Erosion control

- Keene-Ashuelot River Park need erosion control
- Goose Pond and Drummer Hill

Centralized clearing house for trail data

Signage improvements

- Can State DOT create road crossing signs?
- No sign or parking at Stearns Hill
- Poor signage at Goose Pond
- Signage on Cheshire Trail

Regional Trail group

Legislation encouraging trail development and use

Trails designed for multiple use

- Bridge over Rt 9/10/12
- Dogs and people on Ashuelot River Trail
- Horses, people, and motorized vehicles on Cheshire North Trail

Education on appropriate use

- Education about existing funding resources
- Class VI roads in Keene, Swanzey, and Chesterfield
- Flora damage-Goose Pond, Drummer Hill, Ashuelot River Park

Better Access

- Not enough single track Mt. Bike trails with maps and clear access
- Parking and access at Goose Pond

Job Creation

Equipment Clearing House

Coding for various uses

Identify Potential Resources:

In the final agenda item, participants created the following list of resources that will be helpful to the trail initiative

Name	Organization
Emily Hague	Monadnock Conservancy
Jeff Jones	Society for the Protection of NH Forests
Dan Sunquist	
Deb Crowder and John Bordenex	Conservation Commission
Steve Riccio	Bicyclist
Brian Mattson and Andy Bohannon	Keene Parks and Recreation
John Summers	State Legislation
Bruce Bohanen	Snowmobilers
Gina Hamlett	Friends of Ashuelot River Park
Ron Duddy and Oscar ?	State Forests and Lands
Bill Gegas	State Trails Bureau
Dave Bergeron	Pathways for Keene
Dave Krish	Swanzey Bicyclists
Josh Ryan	Trail maintenance and building
Bill Roberts	Friends of Pisgah
	Monadnock/Sunapee Greenway
Paul Bocko and Jack Calhoun	ANEI
Meade Cadot	Harris Center
Todd Bergeron	Little Monadnock Trail Riders
Polly Chandler	Keene State Service Learning

Concluding Remarks:

Participants were invited to the next phase of the project. This Visioning meeting will be held on October 10th from 7pm-9pm in the Antioch Community Room at Antioch University New England in Keene, NH at 40 Avon St.



Northwest Regional Meeting

Maplewood Nursing Home
Westmoreland, NH
September 11, 2006
7-8:30pm

Meeting Minutes

Welcome and Introductions:

Facilitators- David Ruble, Dave Viale, Sarah Swain, Antioch University New England students working for Antioch New England Institute(ANEI)

Attendees-

Gayle Beaudoin-New Hampshire Horse Council
Joy Nalevanko-Alstead Conservation Commission
Jan Carpenter-Cheshire Walkers
Sarah Webb-Alstead Conservation Commission, NH Audubon
Dan Shelley-Westmoreland SnoBelters
Patrick Greenwood-Westmoreland SnoBelters
Nancy Ranson
Ken Greatbatch

Dave Viale introduced the project, ANEI's role, and the East Hill Foundation.

Ideal Qualities:

The group brainstormed the following cumulative list of ideal trail qualities.

- Scenery-Natural and Historic
- Wideness for safe multi-use
- Long trails
- Trail signage and information
- Restrooms and services
- Equestrian routes are off-road
- Accessible for various users with identified trails
- Looped routes-varied lengths, long and short
- Well maintained
- Specific destinations
- Connectivity
- Access-easy to find
- Variety of terrain
- Smooth surface
- Trails away from noise
- Parking-safe, off road, no tickets
- Rest areas-benches

Identify Regional Trails:

Participants highlighted known public trails with markers on USGS maps. A key of marker colors was established to determine different trail usage.

Other participants discussed and provided contacts where more maps of trails can be found. Dan Shelley brought several copies of the Westmoreland SnoBelters trails.

Identify Potential Improvements/Concerns:

The following categories of improvements were suggested. Participants then provided specific concerns noted by the bullet points below.

Better signage as to use, distance, and maps-

- More and clearer signs on all trails

Legislation to keep trails

Drainage and erosion control

- Erosion on Hunt Rd.
- Fill in wet spots on rail trail through Swanzey
- Wash out on Davis and Symonds Rd.
- Wash out off Mirim Rd in Walpole

Maintain trails-tree branches, etc.

- Ashuelot River Park in Keene-exercise stations need work or removal
- Debris on the River Trail, esp. in handicap accessible area

Rail trail hardpacked

- South of Keene-cap as much as possible with hardpack

Connectivity

- Continuation of RR bed into Walpole
- Continue RR bed from Keene to stone arch bridge

Trail Etiquette

- Esp. between ice climbers and snowmobile riders near the ledges on the RR bed

Bridges for stream crossings

- Bridge behind High Hopes
- Washout at bridge on Wentworth Rd.
- Bridge behind Burt's saw mill
- Snowmobile bridge at Wellman pond
- Plank bridge across Conn. River south of Brattleboro
- Alstead-trail along Cold River bridge improved
- Build bridge across 101 at stone arch bridge

Preservation of trails and easements

- Loop to Highland Hill

Landowner communication on use

Town dialogue for enforcement

Liability coverage for trail users

Coordination between towns

- Better communication between towns and clubs

Coordination between users

Safety Patrol

More snow coverage!

Identify Potential Resources:

In the final agenda item, participants created the following list of resources that will be helpful to the trail initiative

Name	Organization
Dean Beman	Winchester Sno-Mo Club
Bruce Bohanen	Keene Sno-Mo Club
Gary Gendren	Alstead Sno-Mo Club
Bary Labombarde	Cheshire County Sno-Mo Club
	Sullivan County ATVers
Mike O'Conner	Chesterfield Sno-Mo Club
Marcia Galloway	Walpole Sno-Mo Club
Dan Shelley and Patrick Greenwood	Westmoreland SnoBelters
Andy Greenwood and Sarah Webb	Local Birders
Harry Nelson	
	East Hill Farm
	Services:
	Mack's and Pudgies
	Diamond Pizza
	The Minuteman
Patrick Greenwood	Westmoreland Fire and Rescue

Concluding Remarks:

Participants were invited to the next phase of the project. This Visioning meeting will be held on October 10th from 7pm-9pm in the Antioch Community Room at Antioch University New England in Keene, NH at 40 Avon St.



Northeast Regional Meeting

Harrisville Public Library
Harrisville, NH
September 12, 2006
7-8:30pm

Meeting Minutes

Welcome and Introductions:

Facilitators- David Ruble, Dave Viale, Sarah Swain, Antioch University New England students working for Antioch New England Institute(ANEI)

Attendees-

Craig Della Penna-Northeast Greenway Solutions, Central Highlands Conservancy

Laura Susmann

Winston Sims

Don Scott

Frank Meneghini

Gretchen Schillienat-KHS AP Envi. Science

Kim Bylancik

Barbara Watkins-Rails to Trails

Sandy Cook-Rails to Trails

Alison Weber

Dave Viale introduced the project, ANEI's role, and the East Hill Foundation.

Ideal Qualities:

The group brainstormed the following cumulative list of ideal trail qualities.

- Meets community needs
- Regional thinking with uniform marketing, signage, and purpose
- Current/updated maps
- Bridges where necessary (horses)
- Silence-only natural sounds
- Connecting with other trails and villages
- Consistent width
- Seasonally appropriate use
- Coordinated with land trusts
- Appropriate for different uses-width, tread, etc.
- Paths for different uses/users
- No motorized wheeled vehicles
- Well maintained-with collective responsibility for maintenance
- As natural as possible
- Easy access-ADA access, open to public, multi-use parking
- Unique destination points-natural and historic
- Surface reflects local needs
- No dead ends-looped routes
- Radiating from population centers, promotes pedestrian use
- Well signed trails with mileage markers

Identify Regional Trails:

Participants highlighted known public trails with markers on USGS maps. A key of marker colors was established to determine different trail usage.

Other participants discussed and provided contacts where more maps of trails can be found. Craig Della Penna spoke of great resources for antique maps at UNH. He also brought a computer slide of the rail bed networks in southwest New Hampshire, southeast Vermont, and northern Massachusetts. Craig also spoke of the tri-state trails initiative working to connect that larger region with rail trails.

Identify Potential Improvements/Concerns:

The following categories of improvements were suggested. Participants then provided specific concerns noted by the bullet points below.

Better community relationships

- Regional email newsletter between groups and interested citizens
- Catalog of trails and roads
- Determine best use for each

Winston Sims brought up several points specific to building community relationships, especially focusing on the process with which this might happen

- ✓ Focus on the process not just events
- ✓ Build trust not suspicion
- ✓ Build respect
- ✓ Build confidence
- ✓ Foster open exchange of ideas

Participatory decision making

Accessible clearing house of trail information

Central ownership of trails

Knowing ownership of trails

- Identify land ownership
- Trail from end of North Pond to trails that lead to Cobb Hill to avoid Wilderness Trail

Regional Comprehensive Trail Map

- Maps so that towns can work together to connect trails

Trail Maintenance

- Clearing trails on Beech Hill
- Drainage and maintenance on trail from Dublin Rd to the end of Skatutake
- Install 32' bridge at dam off Hancock Rd at North Pond
- Install 40' bridge at Jacwith Rd on rail trail in Harrisville
- Install 20' bridge on the rail trail in Chesham, NH
- Install 40' bridge off Meadow Rd in Harrisville on rail trail
- Repair old bridges in Harrisville on Blackberry Ln.
- Connect old South Rd to South Rd in Chesham
- Marlborough rail trail bridge across Minewawa Boot

Better Connectivity with other trails

State-wide interest (DRED) in non-motorized trails

Maintain class 6 roads

Awareness of trail names, location, and use allowed

Shared Community Vision

- Create a town-wide open committee to facilitate discussion/vision before conflict arises

Identify Potential Resources:

In the final agenda item, participants created the following list of resources that will be helpful to the trail initiative

Name	Organization
Barbara Watkins	Silver Lake Land Trust
Meade Cadot	Harris Center
Leah Mellon	NPS Rivers and Trails Conservation Assist
Bary Labombarde	Cheshire County Sno-Mo Club
	Sullivan County ATVers
Gayle Beaudoin	New Hampshire Horse Council
	Planning Boards-Dublin
	Conservation Commissions
	Yankee Magazine
	Rotary Clubs
	Small business owners
Scott and Deirdre	Harrisville B & B
www.NHdeeds.com	Title researchers
	Boy and Girl Scouts
Con-Val HS	Community service groups
	Valuation maps
	Antioch practicum students
	Grant writers
Kit Morgan	NH DOT Ashuelot, Cheshire, Tower Hill
	Local Realtors
	Local Land Trusts-linear thinking
Jeff Nugent	Windham Regional Commission
Jeff Porter	SWRPC

Concluding Remarks:

Participants were invited to the next phase of the project. This Visioning meeting will be held on October 10th from 7pm-9pm in the Antioch Community Room at Antioch University New England in Keene, NH at 40 Avon St.



Southwest Regional Meeting

Hinsdale High School

Hinsdale, NH

September 13, 2006

7-8:30pm

Meeting Minutes

Welcome and Introductions:

Facilitators- David Ruble, Dave Viale, Sarah Swain, Antioch University New England students working for Antioch New England Institute(ANEI)

Attendees-

Michael Alarie-Pisgah Mountain Trail Riders

Larry Stanclift-Pisgah Mountain Trail Riders

Joseph Roy

Deb Hogancamp-Monadnock Pathways

Jim Gruber-Antioch New England Institute

Bill Roberts-Friends of Pisgah

Robert Howe-Friends of Pisgah

Bruce Bellville

George Tommila-Pisgah Mountain Snow Mo

Dan Carr-Pisgah Defense

Craig Weed-Hinsdale R.R. Depot

Ellen Edson-Hinsdale Conservation Commission

Matthew Edson

Dave Viale introduced the project, ANEI's role, and the East Hill Foundation.

Ideal Qualities:

The group brainstormed the following cumulative list of ideal trail qualities.

- Cooperative sharing of trails and maintenance
- Proper enforcement
- Year-round use
- Destination points-natural and historic
- Remote
- Multi-use: ATVs, Snowmobiles, Bicycles, Hikers
- Vistas
- Natural
- Safe and clean
- Smooth consistent surface
- Connectivity
- Strenuous hikes
- Encounters with wildness
- Access near residence
- Peaceful
- Good for hiking and walking
- Exclude automobiles
- Options for all users and skill levels

- Erosion control
- Signage-well marked
- Zones which are non-motorized to preserve quiet
- Linked to services and commerce
- Well marked on topographical maps(include these at trailhead)

Identify Regional Trails:

Participants highlighted known public trails with markers on USGS maps. A key of marker colors was established to determine different trail usage.

Other participants discussed and provided contacts where more maps of trails can be found.

Identify Potential Improvements/Concerns:

The following categories of improvements were suggested. Participants then provided specific concerns noted by the bullet points below.

Trail Maintenance-increase frequency

- Clear fallen trees
- Trash removal
- Remove ruts in trail
- Get rid of mud and sand
- Surface with hard-pack
- Encourage and organize individual participation in maintenance
- Rail trail maintenance with state funding
- Brush cutting on rail trail
- Proper trail surface for use

Trail Design

- Meandering to slow motorized vehicles
- Proper design of ditching for erosion control and water channeling
- “Green zones” for non-motorized use
- Parking areas at trailheads
- Picnic areas and rest spots-tables and benches
- Adequate sized trails
- Identify ecological features when designing trails

More information at trail

- Information available (resources/signage) about historical and environmental significance
- Accurate and plentiful signage and markings

Safer Road Crossings

- State signs for road crossings

More fiscal support from State government

Better communication with landowners

Better education of trail users

- Signage encouraging litter control

Better law enforcement for safety and usage

- ATVs on rail trails only when there is no snow

- Provide trail vehicles to law enforcement in neighboring towns-grants can cover law enforcement time
- Follow Peterborough's law that requires written permission for each rider of an ATV to be on private property

Better communication with public

- Public more aware of trails
- Outreach to youth
- Regional trail links with regional mapping
- Communication with ATV groups

Better relationship/coordination between users and government

- Less interference
- Federal and state support
- No communication with trails bureau

Discussion was had during this time around the use of ATVs. There seemed to be confusion surrounding ATV regulations. This will be an important point to clarify moving forward.

Identify Potential Resources:

In the final agenda item, participants created the following list of resources that will be helpful to the trail initiative

Name	Organization
	Winchester Trail Riders
Tom Dustin	Chesterfield Conservation Commission
	NPS Rivers and Trails Conservation Assist
	RTP Grants
	Trackers
	Monadnock Conservancy
	Equestrian groups
	Hiking groups
	Mountain bikers
	Rails to Trails magazine
	Hunters and fishermen
	A-1 Pizza
	UNH Extention office
	Conti Wildlife Sanctuary
	Tri-state Rails to Trails
	Conn. River Joint Rivers Mission
	Farmers
Gus Ruth	Winchester Conservation Commission
	Friends of Pisgah
	Boy and Girl Scouts
	Audubon Society
	T-Bird in Hinsdale
Michael Smith	Bakery in Hinsdale
	Historical Societies

Concluding Remarks:

Participants were invited to the next phase of the project. This Visioning meeting will be held on October 10th from 7pm-9pm in the Antioch Community Room at Antioch University New England in Keene, NH at 40 Avon St.