EXTENSION OF AMMONOOSUC RECREATIONAL TRAIL

• DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL & CULTURAL RESOURCE
  • DIVISION OF PARKS & RECREATION
    • BUREAU OF TRAILS
BACKGROUND

• MEETING WITH TOWN, BUREAU AND PUBLIC IN OCTOBER 2011
  • ADVERTISED AND DONE AT REQUEST OF THE LITTLETON SELECT BOARD
• FEDERAL RAIL ABANDONMENT BEGAN IN 2012
  • MULTIPLE ISSUES WITH CONTRACTOR TO GET PAPERWORK FILED
• SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD (STB) CONDITIONAL APPROVAL IN MAY 2019
• FINAL LETTER FROM STATE OF NH TO STB SENT IN OCTOBER 2019
  • FORMALLY NOTIFYING FEDERAL STB THAT LINE IS NOW ‘ABANDONED’
  • LINE REMAINS ELIGIBLE FOR RAIL REINSTATEMENT WHEN NEEDED (DOT REVERSION RIGHTS)
HISTORY CONTINUED:

- BUREAU OF TRAIL HAS SET ASIDE FUNDS IN EACH OF LAST 3 YEARS TO START PULLING RAIL AND DEVELOP TRAIL, STB APPROVAL DELAY COULD NOT START

- TOWN OF LITTLETON APPROVED GRANT FROM BUREAU IN 2018 TO WORK ON TRAIL DEVELOPMENT, EXTENDED TO NOV 31, 2019

- TOWN APPROVED NBRC GRANT TO DEVELOP TRAIL AND CONNECTIONS BETWEEN COTTAGE STREET AND INDUSTRIAL DRIVE IN 2018. EXTENDED AND NOW PARTNERED WITH BOT

- DOT ORIGINALLY OK WITH SURPLUS OF RAIL/STEEL. NOW, WANTS TO KEEP AND REUSE SOME OF THE RAIL. FIELD REVIEW TOMORROW. NOT BEING ABLE TO SURPLUS INCREASING COST OF RAIL REMOVAL
EXISTING AMMONOOSUC REC TRAIL

- WOODVILLE TO LITTLETON, 19.2 MILES
- AGGREGATE SURFACE
- FOLLOWS AMMONOOSUC RIVER & RTE 302/10
- YEAR-ROUND MULTI-USE TRAIL
- MAINT FUNDED THROUGH 3 SNOMO CLUBS, 1 OHRV CLUB AND BUREAU FUNDS
- DOT-OWNED, DNCR MAINTAINED
EXTENSION/IMPROVEMENT PLAN

- REMOVE RAIL AND EXTENT TRAIL 6.82 MILES
- TOTAL NEW TRAIL LENGTH; 26 MILES
- NORTH END JUST S OF WING ROAD
- CONTINUE EXISTING USES NORTH
- IMPROVE SURFACE FOR BETTER WALK/BIKE ACCESS
- ADDRESS LIKELY ISSUE AREAS UP FRONT
TIMELINE AND ISSUES

GOAL TO START RAIL REMOVAL IN NOVEMBER
WEATHER AND TIMING OF CONTRACTORS MAY DELAY UNTIL SPRING
UNSURE OF WHAT DOT HAS TO KEEP AND WHAT CAN BE SURPLUS
TIMING OF FUNDING AND SPENDING DEADLINES

• HISTORIC PRESERVATION
  • PRESERVE CHARACTER OF RAIL AND HISTORY TO THE AREA
  • INFORMATION SIGNAGE AT STRATEGIC LOCATIONS
  • PRESERVE SOME SWITCH STANDS AND RAIL SECTIONS
  • CONCERNS WITH DIGGING

• ENVIRONMENTAL
  • BRIDGE CROSSINGS
  • TIE REMOVAL (SOLID WASTE, NOT HAZARDOUS)
  • SURFACE PREPARATION
  • RIVER PROXIMITY
TIMING AND ISSUES; CONT.

• CORRIDOR CLEARING/MOWING, OCCURRING NOW, 6 WEEKS
• RAIL/TIE REMOVAL 3-4 MONTHS
• SURFACE PREP 1-2 MONTHS (ROUGH GRADING)
• SURFACE INSTALL WITH STONE DUST/LEDGE PACK – 6 WEEKS
• SIGNS, SEGMENT PAVING, ETC 1-2 MONTHS
• BRIDGE DECKING 1 MONTH
• ABOVE ASSUMES CONTRACTED SERVICES AND FUNDING AVAILABLE
PHASE 1

• INDUSTRIAL PARK DRIVE TO COTTAGE STREET
  • PAVING AT ROAD XINGS
  • SCENIC VISTAS CUT FOR VIEW OF RIVER AND DOWNTOWN
  • SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS FROM TRAIL TO SIDE STREETS/DOWNTOWN CONNECTIONS
  • ADDITIONAL SIGNAGE FOR HIGHER USE SECTION AND CLOSER HOMES/BUSINESSES
  • HAVE TO WORK WITH RIVER DISTRICT ON CONNECTIONS AND COORDINATION OF ASTHETICS
  • NBRC FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR PHASE 1. 2020 DEADLINE FOR COMPLETION
  • OTHER ROUTES FOR SOME USES?
PHASE 2, 3

- (2) COTTAGE STREET TO WING ROAD AREA
  - 1-2 YEARS FOR FULL BUILD OUT
  - ALL BRIDGES IN THIS SECTION
  - PAVING AT ROAD XINGS
  - TOWN SOCCER FIELD BUILT ON THE RR CORRIDOR
  - TURN AROUND/END POINT ‘PARK’ (?) INSTALLED
- (3) SURFACE IMPROVEMENT ON ORIGINAL 19 MILES
  YEAR 3-4
FUTURE DISCUSSIONS

• USE MANAGEMENT
  • ALL USES ON ALL SECTIONS?
  • REROUTE OHRV OR EQUINE IN SOME AREAS? MAY NEED USE OF PRIVATE LANDS OR ROADS
  • FUNDING (ONLY MOTORIZED PAY TODAY AND ALL MAINT FUNDS FROM MOTORS)
  • COORD STATE & TOWN

• COORDINATION AND COMMUNICATION
  • BETWEEN TOWN AND STATE
  • COORD REGULATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT
  • MARKETING AND SIGNAGE
  • CONSISTENT MANAGEMENT AND COMM
  • PLAN TO ADDRESS ISSUES BEFORE BECOME ISSUES
  • PARTNERSHIP