

**Henderson County
RAIL-TRAIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
February 9, 2022**

The RTAC held a regularly scheduled meeting on February 9, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. in the King Street Meeting Room.

Voting Member	Present	Not in Attendance
Chuck McGrady, Chair	√	
Chris Burns, Vice Chair	√	
Douglas Moon, at-large	√	
Selena Einwechter, at-large	√	
David Adams, at-large	√	
Dr. Ken Shelton, at-large	√	
Brent Detwiler, City of Hendersonville	√	
Nancy McKinnley, Town of Laurel Park	√	
Mike Egan, Conserving Carolina	√	

Also present: Chris Todd, Business & Community Development Director; Autumn Radcliff, Planning Director; and Marcus Jones, County Engineer.

Chair McGrady called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Introductions:

Chair McGrady welcomed the committee and noted that Selena Einwechter and Dr. Ken Shelton were joining remotely. Loraine Nash, editor of Friends of the Ecusta newsletter, introduced herself and the newsletter objectives.

Approval of Meeting Summary:

No changes. Unanimous approval.

Updates:

Staff: Marcus Jones stated that staff had submitted the PE cost estimates for the for 30% of the design work to NCDOT for their approval and BOC approval was anticipated in March. He also stated that sign was being placed on the bridge crossings to warn the public about using these structures. Chris Todd provided an update on the trail and project with the vision class. He also stated that approximately 36 pounds of trash had been cleaned off the trail during the workday last month.

Conserving Carolina: Conserving Carolina continues to work with Friends of the Ecusta on fund raising efforts. Conserving Carolina is also working with the City of Brevard on a lease agreement for the Transylvania County side of the trail and to identify funding sources. These funding opportunities include a FLAP grant submitted for planning and design of the trail and potentially a grant through RAISE.

Friends of the Ecusta Trail: The Friends are in the process of working with the County on another cleanup day later this year. It was also stated that a presentation would be presented by the Friends to the City of Hendersonville council on the status of efforts for fund raising and trail design and construction.

Discussion:

Encroachment Policy: Marcus Jones provided a copy and overview of the encroachment policy. The policy will be necessary to provide future encroachments and to evaluate current encroachments. Currently, the County has

received 5 new encroachment requests for utilities. The proposed policy will allow the County Engineer to review and approve encroachments such as agricultural operations and public utilities. These encroachments will be consistent with the allowable uses in the railbanking agreement. There will be an application and agreement for each encroachment and Conserving Carolina will be included on the agreement form. There was some discussion on the policy and several questions that the County Engineer addressed including existing City of Hendersonville utility crossings, individual driveways and new rights-of-way, cost burdens to relocated encroachments for trail construction.

Public Comment and Additional Comment:

Loraine Nash, editor for the Friends Newsletter, stated the new monthly newsletter will be out March 1st. She asked for any articles or information to be submitted for inclusion in the newsletter.

Ken Shelton suggested asking the engineering firm to consider identifying any trail amenities that could be named for fundraising opportunities. Chair McGrady stated we can hold that discussion till the contract is in place.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 9th tentatively depending on the engineering contract approval by the BOC.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.