

**Henderson County
RAIL-TRAIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, April 9, 2025**

The RTAC held a regularly called meeting on April 9, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in the King Street Meeting Room and via Microsoft Teams. Voting members present online are denoted with the letter “O”.

Voting Member	Present	Not in Attendance
Chris Burns, Chair	X	
Selena Einwechter, Vice Chair		X
Douglas Moon, at-large	X	
Patrick Kennedy, at-large	X	
Bart Salvaggio, at-large		X
Ken Shelton, at-large	X	
Brent Detwiler, City of Hendersonville	O	
Nancy McKinley, Town of Laurel Park	X	
Mike Egan, Conserving Carolina	X	

Also present: Autumn Radcliff, Planning Director; Janna Bianculli, Senior Planner; Chris Todd, Assistant County Manager; and Andrew Griffin, Facility Services Director.

Call to Order

Chairman Chris Burns called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Public Comment

None.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Mike Egan made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Ken Shelton seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Meeting Summary Approval

Mr. Doug Moon made a motion to approve the meeting summary as presented. Mr. Patrick Kennedy seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Updates

Friends of Ecusta Trail (FOET)

Mr. Mark Tooley stated that he had no updates on behalf of FOET.

City of Brevard

There was no one in attendance for the City of Brevard. Mr. Chris Burns stated that he attended the last ETAB meeting in Brevard, and that the ETAB made a recommendation to approve the Ecusta Trail Rules and Etiquette with some minor changes. County staff have not received a copy of the changes made by ETAB.

Henderson County

Mr. Chris Todd and Mr. Andrew Griffin stated that the trail is still on schedule to be open in June. Mr. Griffin stated that the base coat of asphalt is on the trail and the final layer will be installed. The final coat of asphalt is in place in some areas. Mr. Todd said that a ribbon cutting is being planned and the date has not been set yet, but will be this summer. There were some questions regarding intersection designs, signals, and dog waste for the first six miles of the trail. Ms. Janna Bianculli stated that the signals that were part of the construction will be installed and Watermarks contract identified amenities such as the dog waste stations, but these amenities will come later. Mr. Ken Shelton asked about bathrooms. Ms. Bianculli stated that the county has 6 confirmed partners that will assist with parking, drinking stations, and bathrooms initially. Mr. Griffin stated that initially people will have to “pack in/pack out” their trash and these amenities will be added later.

There was a question about EBikes and those being left on the trail. Ms. Autumn Radcliff stated that this was an item listed in the Ecusta Trail Rules and Etiquette and that these businesses would have to be permitted by the jurisdiction they are in under their zoning regulations. Currently the City of Hendersonville does not allow things like Lime bikes. There was also a question about galvanized steel railing that had been installed. Mr. Todd said that he would investigate that.

There was a question about federal grants under review and whether this would be an issue. Mr. Chris Burns stated that all the federal grants are under review, and it is not anticipated there will be any issues. He also stated that Congressman Chuck Edwards has been and continues to be a supporter of the Ecusta Trail grants.

Trail Events/Policy

Ms. Autumn Radcliff stated that the RTAC heard from Ty Houck with the Greenville County Parks and Recreation on how they deal with trail events on the Swamp Rabbit at the last meeting. Staff met with Parks and Recreation staff and Steve Crowder from Greenville County to further discuss trail events. She also noted that staff met with the FOET to discuss events. It was agreed upon by everyone that there would not be any bike races on the trail. The only races that would take place would be on foot such as a 5K or 10K. Events with rides that span over the course of the day or more, would be allowed. This is similar to the Swamp Rabbit and was due to the trail width limitation.

There were a lot of examples discussed of types of events and some discussion. Ms. Radcliff stated that there will be an application process and fee for events based on size. She said that currently, the Parks and Recreation staff review application each fall for events that are being considered and approved for the following calendar year. The RTAC agreed with a yearly application process but noted that the first year may need to allow applications every six months or quarterly. It was discussed that no events should be planned in 2025 as the contractor will still be completing punch list items on the trail. The RTAC agreed with this.

Staff will bring back more information at the May meeting since the RTAC will continue discussing over the next couple of meetings.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:08 a.m.

This meeting was recorded, and the MP4 file can be made available upon request. Please contact County staff.