

Henderson County
RAIL-TRAIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, November 12, 2025

The RTAC held a regularly scheduled meeting on November 12, 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, Friends of Ecusta Trail	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, Assistant Planning Director; Bruce Gilliam, Parks and Recreation Director; Jason Kilgore, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director; and Paulina Jones, Environmental Planner. Joining remotely were the City of Brevard staff and Mayor Maureen Copelof.

Call to Order

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

Public Comment

The committee heard from two members of the public about Spring Street sidewalks, concerns with E-bike speed, and fencing on private property that creates a sight issue. The other speaker thanked the county for the trash cans and had questions about future improvements, timeline, and concerns related to trail safety.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Bart Salvaggio moved to approve the agenda with the addition of one item on the Luther Smith Memorial. Mr. Ken Shelton seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Meeting Summary Approval

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

Updates

City of Brevard

City of Brevard Mayor stated that the ETAB met, and the update will be part of the discussion item.

Henderson County

Ms. Autumn Radcliff stated that the County updates will also be part of the discussion items.

Friends of Ecusta Trail Update

Ms. Laura Rice, FOET Executive Director, stated they are finalizing the signage and hope to get approval from the RTAC today. She also stated that FOET participated in the Great Trails State Day, attended and presented at the Trail Conservancy Conference, and did a test of the Trail Ambassador program with about six volunteers.

She also notes that there had been a decrease in the number of complaint emails but noted that there were issues with cars at Whitted and Spring Street.

Ecusta Signage Template Package

Mr. Hunter Marks stated that the signage template package was presented to the ETAB and provided an overview to the RTAC on the stations and sign types which included orientation, interpretive and etiquette signs. Mr. Marks presented the logo, layout and color palette for the signs including a template example of each. The RTAC asked a number of questions and had some concerns with the logo size, map details, arrows that looked like directional orientation, and some other minor language. Mr. Bart Salvaggio made a motion to approve the etiquette signs as discussed and refer some of the RTAC's concerns back to the ETAB for their review and approval. Mr. Patrick Kennedy seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Luther Smith Memorial

Mr. Hunter Marks and Ms. Michele Garahi-Ellick, President of the Four Seasons Rotary, presented the concept for a memorial for Luther Smith. The proposed memorial would be located past Lennox Station along the trail and would include a tree grove and some benches. It was also noted that the memorial could be placed at one of the existing county parks. Several items were discussed about the memorial, including the type of trees, location, setback from the paved trail, and the need to address the items through updates to the encroachment policy for this request and future requests. Staff stated that amendments to the encroachment policy would be presented to the RTAC in January, which will address some of these items. The RTAC agreed to wait until the updates to the policy are completed before this memorial request can be approved.

Ecusta Calls/Issue Reporting and Tracking

Based on the request of the RTAC, staff developed a public-facing application using a QR code for the public to report issues, hazards, and non-emergency issues along the trail. The data will be monitored by HC Parks and Recreation staff. The summary dashboard that is for staff use only will easily identify and monitor issues on the trail. Staff provided the RTAC with a list of issues reported to date prior to and after the application. The RTAC discussed some of these issues and requested that a report update be provided to the RTAC monthly to monitor any items that should be addressed.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:32 a.m.

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