

Draft Notes 2nd Greenwoods Path Stakeholders Meeting – 3/30/15

Attending: Eileen Fielding (FRWA), Debra Brydon (Barkhamsted IWC/ZEO), Liz Lacy (FRCC/NPS), Carol Youell (MDC), Deborah Simon (Barkhamsted Conservation Commission), Scott Johnstone (Barkhamsted Conservation Commission), Ginny Apple (Barkhamsted/BEDC), David Childs (NH Economic Development Comm.), John Burdick (NH EDC – Rail to trail subcomm.), David Kimmel (NH EDC, PZC), Dan Jerram (NH First Selectman), Alesia Kennerson (NH BOS), Steven Sadlowski (NH Land Use), Don Stein (Bark. First Selectman), Jim Sullivan (Barkhamsted), Dave Hurley (NH)

- 1) Introduction by Don Stein and Dan Jerram
- 2) Reviewed minutes of last meeting – acknowledged weight of different categories, the need for balance between concerns, recreation heavily relies upon the flora and fauna of the area. Also mentioned experience of Burlington with a conflict between the removal of trees due to bumps in the path and the scenic quality of the bike path.
- 3) Stein mentioned that Mike Beauchene would like to be a resource to this group but wouldn't be able to attend the meetings.
- 4) Group acknowledged that the exact location of the trail is not determined yet – there is still a lot of discussion before final route is certain.
- 5) Discussion re MDC rules on property- currently no biking allowed which pre-dates the mountain bike accident. There was a question about how to address the concern that causes MDC to have that rule.
- 6) Discussion regarding habitat values of the area and the fact that it is a significant area for migratory species.
- 7) Question – will some of the current values of the land be lost if a path is created?
- 8) What are the economic benefits right now? Is it time for another study?
- 9) Looking for ways to get more people to the area of NH/Riverton and to enjoy the area.
- 10) Users need to co-exist not push each other out or compromise the area.
- 11) There were several ideas expressed about what the proposed trail could be like. A natural surface with different focuses at different points along trail.
- 12) Discussion regarding downtown NH and the system of trails, hope for revitalization.
- 13) Kimmel discussed the history of the area known as “mast swamp” - 1700s to 1835 manufacturing used Farmington River for power. Way back in 1772 Colebrook had ironworks – a road went right through mast swamp. Greenwoods dam provided means for woolen mills, cotton mills. 1936 dam was compromised and then flood of 1955 finished it off.
- 14) There was a look at MDC maps of the area showing general property lines.
- 15) Discussion as to two levels of trails. Discussion re potential for flooding of lower trail area.
- 16) Discussion regarding the need for accurate mapping, flood lines, species, and other more specific information.
- 17) How do we “share” the assets of the area. Protect some and grow others.
- 18) Need to look again closely, permitting requirements, what will be needed?
- 19) Will plan walk of area to look at species, resources and GPS, photograph.