



CITY OF CONCORD

REPORT TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Beth Fenstermacher, Senior Planner

DATE: 7/1/15

SUBJECT: Resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a Trail Agreement on land to be conveyed to Unitil Energy Systems, Inc., which will permit the construction and public use of a trail on this property and allow for the inclusion of the trail in the City's trail system

Recommendation

Authorize the City Manager to enter into a trail agreement on land that will be conveyed to Unitil Energy Systems, Inc. ("Unitil") off of Portsmouth Street, which will permit the construction and public use of a trail on this property and allow for the inclusion of the trail in the City's trail system.

Background

The Trails Committee, a subcommittee of the Conservation Commission, is working to establish a trail system that would connect Portsmouth Street to land known as the Whispering Heights Property. One of the proposed trails is intended to be located on land that will be conveyed to Unitil as part of a proposed land transaction. The land transaction involves approximately 45.2 acres located north of Portsmouth Street and I-393 ("Portsmouth Street Property"). The property is being conveyed to Unitil and Eversource (formerly PSNH) for the construction of two substations.

Discussion

The Planning Board granted conditional approval of Unitil's application for major site plan approval for the development of the Portsmouth Street Property on June 17, 2015, which included the requirement that a trail agreement as agreed upon by Unitil and the City of Concord be submitted.

The proposed trail would be utilized for non-motorized passive recreation including hiking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, mountain biking, horseback riding and other low impact recreational activities. The Conservation Commission would manage and maintain these trails together with the other City trails through the Forestry Program. The trails would be blazed with markers, mapped with a GPS, and maps of the area, including this new trail if approved, would be included in the City's guidebook and posted on the website.