



CITY OF CONCORD

REPORT TO MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Sam Durfee, Senior Planner

DATE: June 15, 2021

SUBJECT: Authorization for the City Manager to amend an existing Trail and License Agreement with The Friends of the Concord-Lake Sunapee Rail Trail to build and maintain additional multi-use rail trail on City property

Recommendation:

Accept this report to authorize the City Manager to amend the 2018 Trail and License Agreement with The Friends of the Concord-Lake Sunapee Rail Trail to build and maintain a multi-use rail trail on City property in the vicinity of Horse Hill Road, Lehtinen Park and the Hopkinton town line.

Background

The Friends of the Concord-Lake Sunapee Rail Trail (“The Friends”), a 501c3 non-profit organization are securing rights to use the former Concord-Claremont rail line as a multi-use trail. This group’s ultimate goal is to have a 34 mile trail that would allow users to go from Concord to Lake Sunapee.

Although much of the 34-mile corridor is yet to be acquired, the current strategy of the Friends is to secure trail rights to sections that are highly visible, relatively inexpensive to improve, and have great value and utility to the neighborhoods and municipalities they serve.

According to the Friends, to date, they have completed several trail sections, including a bridge over Lake Todd in Bradford; a section in downtown Warner with a story walk and another near the town soccer fields; a section running from the library in Contoocook up to Davisville, and they continue to work on the Fisherville to Carter Hill Road section. They recently received a \$200,000 NH-CDFR tax credit award to help fund construction of this section. The Friends have also completed a trail head parking area on Fisherville Road adjacent to LAD Welding, across from the Maple Grove Cemetery.

Discussion

In Concord, the Friends have obtained trail easements from the Deoss and Jerry-Wolcott properties between Fisherville Road and Carter Hill Road. The 2018 Trail and License Agreement formalized a section of trail over the City owned easement along the former rail bed between these two holdings. This easement was acquired in 1980 for the purpose of creating a recreational trail. This proposed amendment to the 2018 Agreement would formalize an additional 0.7 mile of rail trail within the City.

Further to the east of the Lehtinen Park properties, the City owns a fee simple parcel through which the former rail line traverses. There are also three private properties comprising the remainder of the proposed line within Concord. Staff understands that the Friends are seeking trail rights from those parcels as well.

According to a June 22nd memo to the City (attached), the group pledges to build and maintain the stone dust trail as well as provide fencing where requested by property owners, benches, and kiosks.

w/att: June 22, 2021 Memo from The Friends of the Concord-Lake Sunapee Rail Trail
Map of the proposed route in Concord
Amended License Agreement