



CITY OF CONCORD
New Hampshire's Main Street™
Community Development Department

REPORT TO MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Beth Fenstermacher, Director of Special Projects & Strategic Initiatives

DATE: September 20, 2023

SUBJECT: Resolution authorizing the City Manager to accept an Easement Deed for a Recreational Trail from Sarnia Seacoast, L.L.C. on a portion of private property at 6 Loudon Road for the purposes of constructing a portion of the Merrimack Greenway Trail.

Recommendation:

1. Accept this report
2. Approve the attached Resolution

Background:

Phase 2 of the Merrimack River Greenway Trail (MRGT) was previously approved for construction in FY2024, and will span 3,900 linear feet along the Merrimack River through the City-owned Gully Hill agricultural fields. Access between the trail and Loudon Road will be via an existing right-of-way through the parking lot driveway for 10-22 Loudon Road. However, City Staff and the Friends of the MRGT (FMRGT) determined that the safest route is to continue the MRGT via a separated trail along the river and through private property located at 6 Loudon Road. FMRGT initiated a discussion with the current property owner of 6 Loudon Road to determine the feasibility of connecting Phase 2 of the MRGT with the Loudon Road bridge.

Discussion:

Based on a favorable response from the property owner, FMRGT prepared a conceptual layout of the trail connection within the existing paved area on the 6 Loudon Road property. This solution provides safe access, reduces impact to the shoreland protection area of the river, reduces cost, and does not require environmental permits. The proposed layout requires pavement re-striping to re-organize parking spaces and add a 12-foot wide trail with a 3-ft buffer between the trail and parking spaces. The design proposes a more efficient use of the paved area, and does not reduce the existing number of parking spaces for the business at 6 Loudon Road. FMRGT has agreed to pay for the costs associated with the re-striping. The City will hold the easement and be responsible for the maintenance of the trail. The owner has agreed to move forward with the Easement Deed for a Recreational Trail, pending approval of the final layout.