

## Bonenfant, Janice

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**From:** Jon Miner <cp\_n18@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 9, 2026 7:27 AM  
**To:** \* City Clerk  
**Subject:** Comments on Friends of the Northern Rail Trail

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Dear Concord City Councilors -

I am opposed to removing the rails to create a paved sidewalk, and believe that more Concord residents should oppose this and be more fiscally responsible. Many trail promoters rally behind false claims.

Claim: "The trail will bring money into the community"

False... many rail trails only get used by locals. They are not a tourist destination. The proposed trail in Concord is not a tourist draw. Businesses are not going to suddenly pop-up along the trail corridor. In Concord's case, the trail would actually drive out a business, which is already actively bringing tourists into Concord! Bike lanes along existing roads passing existing businesses would be a smarter economic plan.

Claim: "The scrap value of the rails will pay for the project"

False... This sounds attractive, but the numbers don't add up. There is more to it than just taking the rails. Once the railbed is disturbed, then there is soil remediation and hazmat disposal that must follow current regulations. Leaving the rails avoids all this, and removes the risk of disturbing the communications cables buried along the right of way.

Claim: "Everyone wants a paved trail"

False... A paved trail is really bad for walkers, joggers, and runners. A paved trail disturbs surface water runoff. A paved trail becomes slippery with black ice. Paved trails encourage higher speeds. A stone dust surface is just as ADA compliant. In the short term, a paved trail is more costly to build, requiring specialized equipment and materials, and in the long term more costly to maintain. The City of Concord could better spend their paving budget on existing sidewalks and bike lanes.

When the Council holds its meeting look around the room... Look at the ages of the people involved. I was recently at another meeting in another part of the state, with supporters saying "Young people want this trail", yet there were no young people present. In my mid-50s, I was one of the youngest people in the room. The decisions made today pass responsibility down to the next generation, yet it's not apparent that they want this.

Please vote to leave the rails in place. Please vote to maintain the natural state of the rolling farmlands, woods and river.

Jonathan Miner



## Bonenfant, Janice

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**From:** Mark Davie <mark.davie.nh@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 11, 2026 10:58 AM  
**To:** Tuite, Deborah; Bonenfant, Janice  
**Subject:** Fwd: Fw: Rail Trails

**[CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe]**

Good morning Janice & Deb-

Can this email of support get forwarded on to the others? I think this got blocked when I forwarded it from my other email so hopefully you're not receiving this a second time.

Thank you! See you this evening.

Mark Davie  
(603) 409-3640

----- Forwarded message -----

Sent from [Proton Mail](#) for iOS.

----- Original Message -----

On Monday, 05/11/26 at 09:36 Megan De Vorsey <[mdevorsey@gmail.com](mailto:mdevorsey@gmail.com)> wrote:

Hi Mark,

I just wanted to reiterate my support for the rail trails. I used to love walking on the Concord hiking trails, but so many people let their dogs run wild that I stopped walking there. I had two dogs run at me and one put his paws on my chest on the Swope trail. I confronted the owner, but people really don't care if you are scared of being knocked over.

The rail trails, and the ability to be up high on a bike, are the only way I feel safe being outside right now.

I hope that the City Council supports the rail trail expansion. I was talking about the rail trails to a friend, but it can be cost prohibitive if a family needs to install a trailer hitch and buy a bike rack. Having a trail begin in Concord will make the trails more accessible.

Thanks,

Megan