

Henderson County
RAIL-TRAIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
January 12, 2022

The RTAC held a regularly scheduled meeting on January 12, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. in the King Street Meeting Room.

Voting Member	Present	Not in Attendance
Chuck McGrady, Chair	√	
Chris Burns, Vice Chair		√
Douglas Moon, at-large	√	
Selena Einwechter, at-large		√
David Adams, at-large	√	
Dr. Ken Shelton, at-large	√	
Brent Detwiler, City of Hendersonville	√	
Nancy McKinley, Town of Laurel Park	√	
Mike Egan, Conserving Carolina	√	

Also present: Chris Todd, Business & Community Development Director; Autumn Radcliff, Planning Director; Janna Bianculli, Senior Planner; and Marcus Jones, County Engineer.

Chair McGrady called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Approval of Meeting Summary:

No changes. Unanimous approval.

Appointment of Vice Chair:

Mr. David Adams nominated Mr. Chris Burns to serve as the committee's vice chair. Dr. Ken Shelton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Updates:

Conserving Carolina

Private fundraising is on-going for the local match required for the various grants. The organization is collaborating with the City of Brevard to apply for other grant funding. Dr. Ken Shelton oversees the organization's fundraising committee.

Friends of the Ecusta Trail

The Friends are continuing to meet monthly and diligently fundraising. The organization is also creating a volunteer network to assist the County with trail maintenance and clean-up. The organizations is beginning to shift from advocacy to support of the trail.

Staff

The County held its first volunteer day on the 15th and had over 60 people help clean-up the trail. Work continues with Vaughn & Melton on the scope for the PE of phases A-C. A contract is expected to be presented to the Board of Commissioners in late February or early March. The scope is separated into two phases with the first being a 30% design. The contract will also be an hourly contract as opposed to a lump sum.

Discussion:

Encroachment Policy

County Engineer, Marcus Jones, presented on the various elements the RTAC should consider when adopting an encroachment policy for the corridor. Some key elements to consider are an application process, fees, surety, liability coverage. Encroachment permits would be necessary for driveway access, utilities, signage, etc. Existing structures within the corridor are considered “grandfathered” at this time. Conserving Carolina sent a letter to encroaching property owners at the time of acquisition to notify them of their encroachments and the change in ownership. The County has already received 5 requests for encroachments, so it is pertinent to create and implement this policy as soon as possible.

Memorandum of Understanding

Business & Community Development Director, Christopher Todd, presented on the need for a MOU with the municipalities along the trail. This would address how to handle any public safety issues, maintenance, and clean-up. This could be a steppingstone for an interlocal agreement that conveys joint planning and zoning.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

The meeting adjourned at 10:56 a.m.