

**Henderson County
RAIL-TRAIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, February 12, 2025**

The RTAC held a regularly called meeting on February 12, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in the King Street Meeting Room and via Microsoft Teams. Voting members present online are denoted with the letter “O”.

Voting Member	Present	Not in Attendance
Chris Burns, Chair	X	
Selena Einwechter, Vice Chair	O	
Douglas Moon, at-large	X	
Patrick Kennedy, at-large	X	
Bart Salvaggio, at-large	X	
Ken Shelton, at-large	X	
Brent Detwiler, City of Hendersonville	O	
Nancy McKinley, Town of Laurel Park	O	
Mike Egan, Conserving Carolina	X	

Also present: Autumn Radcliff, Planning Director; and Janna Bianculli, Senior Planner.

Call to Order

Chairman Chris Burns called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Public Comment

None.

Adjustment of Agenda

None.

Meeting Summary Approval

Mr. Mike Egan made a few minor changes to the minutes. No other changes were noted. Mr. Mike Egan made a motion to approve the agenda and meeting summary with changes. Mr. Ken Shelton seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Updates

Friends of Ecusta Trail (FOET)

Mr. Mark Tooley stated that the trail merchandise featuring the new logo is now available at the Mast General Store. He stated that FOET was working with other businesses in Brevard and along the trail for the merchandise to be sold.

City of Brevard

Ms. Maureen Copelof, City of Brevard Mayor, stated that they are planning for the 30% design to be resubmitted in February. The city is also working on two areas specifically for prioritizing amenities including parking. Mr. Burns asked the city if they were working on a parking study or amenity locations. The mayor stated that most of the trail is located in a rural area and there is not a lot of options for bathrooms, including limitations with utilities and funding.

Henderson County

Staff reported updates from the County Engineer who was unable to attend the meeting. The county is close in completing repairs due to Helene and on track for a June completion. JMT is looking at Phase II of the design after Helene and the county hopes to have the 30% design for this section completed soon.

Continued Discussion of Trail Etiquette/Rules:

Ms. Autumn Radcliff provided the RTAC with a printed draft of the etiquette/rules. She stated that the Recreation Advisory Board (RAB) reviewed the final draft of the Trail Etiquette/Rules following the RTAC's December changes. The RAB had a few comments to pass along to the RTAC but voted unanimously to recommend the Ecusta Trail Etiquette/Rules. Ms. Radcliff reviewed the comments from the RAB which included concern that respect property was the first item listed, provided examples of passing warnings such as, "Yell or Bell" options, and asked about trail signage for yielding to vehicles at crossings.

Mr. Mike Egan recommended rewording the first item to address one of the RAB's concern. The RTAC agreed with this change. The City of Brevard representatives also commented that they were comfortable with the simplified version of the Trail Etiquette/Rules that the RTAC drafted. The FOET stated that the Brevard ETAB would review the final draft at its meeting later this month.

Mr. Ken Shelton made a motion to approve the Ecusta Trail Etiquette/Rules with the change as noted. Mr. Bart Salvaggio seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Future Meeting Topics

Staff stated that the RTAC had some items that are on for discussion at future meetings. These included the text amendments for trail parking, event policy and process, MOU status, and implementation items related to the 2045 Comprehensive Plan. The RTAC requested a speaker from the Swamp Rabbit to come to the next meeting to discuss types of trail events and that are being requested and approved on their trail.

Mr. Ken Shelton asked about an update on the trail partners program, understanding that most of the efforts were paused due to Helene. Ms. Janna Bianculli stated that the county is going to follow up with the Chamber as they expressed an interest to take over the trail partners program. She stated that FOET was going to help with a survey to businesses along the trail in the next couple of months, this was also paused due to the hurricane. She also noted that the county was working on some website updates to the greenway page.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:14 a.m.

This meeting was recorded, and the MP4 file can be made available upon request. Please contact County staff.