



VTrans Fall 2022 Transportation Alternatives (TA) Grant Application

Thoroughly read the ***Vermont Transportation Alternatives Fall 2022 Application Guide*** before you begin your application. It includes important program information and step-by-step instructions. Pay particular attention to the application process requirements. **Applications are due in hand or by e-mail by December 14, 2022.** Please e-mail the completed application to:
Scott.robertson@vermont.gov

Bellows Falls Riverfront Trail Scoping
(Project Name/Title)

(802) 376-5425

(Phone)

Gary Fox
(Municipality contact person responsible
for the management of this project)

development@rockbf.org
(e-mail address)

Rockingham
(Town)

\$ \$40,000
Amount of **Federal Funds requested** (no more
than 80% of the project cost estimate).

05101
(Zip Code)

\$10,000

Amount of Local Match. Example:
Federal Award = \$300,000 (80% of total)
Local Match = \$75,000 (20% of total)
Total Project Cost = \$375,000 (100% of the total)

PO Box 370, 7 The Square
(Mailing Address)

County: Windham

Town/Village/City: Rockingham

Specific location, street, or road: Mill St end to Paper Mill Road beginning

Regional Planning Commission: Windham Regional Commission

If a linear project, what is the length in feet? 1,685

Is the project on or intersecting to a State maintained highway?

Yes ☐ No ☒

- Note: If yes, be sure to include documentation that you have notified the VTrans District Transportation Administrator of the intent to apply for TA funding and have provided them with a brief (one paragraph) description of the proposed project.*

Project type being applied for:

☒ **Scoping** ☐ **Design/Construction**

The municipality understands that a typical construction project utilizing Transportation Alternatives Program funds will take roughly three years (min.) in the Design and ROW phases prior to going to construction (as pointed out in the TA Program Application Guide)? Yes ☒ No ☐

Does this project have a previously completed scoping or feasibility study? Yes ☐ No ☒

Note:

Attach a map(s) of the project area and clearly show the limits of the project as well as surrounding benefits from the proposed improvement. If the project is within or adjacent to a designated downtown, village or growth center, clearly indicate the relationship of the proposed project to the boundary of the designated area. Color photos of the area are also recommended.

Fiscal Information:

Accounting System Automated ☒ Manual ☐ Combination ☐

SAM Unique Identifier # CZWVNDZE7D9

Fiscal Year End Month June

Property Ownership: Easements in perpetuity in place

If the proposed project is on private property that will need to be acquired by the Municipality through purchase, easement, or eminent domain (includes temporary construction rights) in accordance with the "Uniform Act", then the municipality is committed to exercising its right of **eminent domain** to acquire the rights to construct the project if necessary. Yes ☐ No ☐

Funding:

Does this project already have existing funding? If so, please describe. Yes ☐ No ☒
Only local match to future grant applications

Will you accept an award less than you applied for? Yes ☒ No ☐

- If yes, please indicate whether local funds will be used to make up the shortfall, or if the project scope will be reduced. If the project scope is to be reduced, describe what part of the project (please be specific) you would accept partial funding for.
Local funds

A support letter from the governing body of the applicant municipality or organization and an acknowledgement and source of the local match and commitment to future maintenance responsibility for construction projects is required (must be dated within 1 year of the application). Is a letter of support attached?

Yes ☒ No ☐

Regional Planning Commission Letter of Support:

In order to apply, the project must have a letter of support from the regional planning commission. Is a letter of support attached? Colin?

Yes ☒ No ☐

Application Scoring Criteria:

- 1. Please give a brief description of the project (be sure to indicate the primary facility type being applied for and be concise). (10 points max.)**

This application will create a scoping study for a riverfront mixed use bicycle and pedestrian trail expanding the existing Bellows Falls River walk and connecting the trail to Paper Mill Road and the Saxtons River to the South. Currently the paved portion of the trail stops at the end of Mill Street, just south of the Bellows Falls Designated Downtown, the remainder of the connection a rough, informal path that is too steep and narrow in sections to be accessible for all users. We want to upscale the design to be ADA accessible as the trail is in the Designated Downtown, walkable to all Village of Bellows Falls, and connects the Downtown to the Saxtons River. This will also provide residents living in the “Under the Hill” neighborhood of Bellows Falls more convenient access to our downtown. Bellows Falls is an important urban center for northern Windham County and there are more than 3,000 people living within approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile of the River walk trail. Extending the river walk trail to the southern end of the village and the Saxtons river will improve accessibility and active transportation opportunities for residents, better connect all residents of the village to downtown and improve access to both the Connecticut and Saxton’s Rivers for residents and visitors alike. The entire section of the proposed trail has easements in perpetuity.

- 2. What is the feasibility of this project? Feasibility (or Scoping) study applications will not be scored on this criterion. Also, please describe the extent of project development completed to date. (10 points max.)**

N/A

- 3. Does this project address a need identified in a local or regional planning document? If so, please describe. (5 points max.)**

Town Plan adopted August 30, 2016. Page 39, Transportation Chapter Action Step 27: “Develop a sustainable interconnected system of sidewalks and walking/bicycle trails linking residences, schools, stores, work places, and tourist sites.”

Windham Regional Plan, readopted June 2021 including the following provisions:

“To provide for safe, convenient, economical, and energy efficient transportation systems including options such as public transit and paths for pedestrians and bicyclists, where appropriate;” (pg. 5)

“To maintain and enhance recreational opportunities for both residents and visitors in keeping with the carrying capacity of natural resources and public facilities;” pg. 6

- 4. Does this project benefit a State Designated Center per the link below (i.e., downtowns, villages, or neighborhood growth centers recognized by the Vermont Department of Economic, Housing and Community Development? (10 Points Max.)**

<http://maps.vermont.gov/ACCD/PlanningAtlas/index.html?viewer=PlanningAtlas>

Yes, the project is within the Bellows Falls Designated Downtown area. The proposed trail extension connects our Designated Downtown to the southern end of the village at the Bellows Falls-Westminster boundary and will better connect our Designated Downtown with several important community resources, including a light manufacturing incubator, the Saxtons River Estuary, the Connecticut River, and the Old Paper Mill building, Rockingham’s largest identified redevelopment opportunity. Extending the trail to connect Paper Mill Road with Downtown Bellows Falls will support economic development and vibrancy in Downtown Bellows Falls by improving access for all village residents and expanding

opportunities for recreation and river access for visitors, bringing more people into Downtown Bellows Falls.

5. **Provide a project cost estimate below (project costs below include both federal dollars and local dollars). Projects will be scored based on whether the cost appears realistic for the size and scope of the project. For scoping studies, use PE and Local Project Management lines only.**

Note: If you are applying for additional funds for an existing project, show the amount being requested for this grant in the PE, ROW, Construction, Construction Engineering, and Municipal Project Management rows below. Also, be clear regarding total project cost and other funding amounts and sources in the additional funding comments box below. (10 points max.)

Preliminary Engineering (PE) (Engineering, Surveying, Permitting)	<u>\$45,000</u>
Right-of-way / Acquisition (ROW) (appraisals, land acquisition and legal fees)	<u>\$ Click here to enter value</u>
Construction (construction costs with reasonable contingency)	<u>\$ Click here to enter value</u>
Construction Engineering (cost to provide inspection during construction)	<u>\$ Click here to enter value</u>
Municipal Project Management Costs (minimum of 10% of total PE, ROW and Construction Phases).	<u>\$ \$5,000</u>
Total Project Cost	<u>\$ \$50,000</u>

Addition Funding Comments: (ex. Total and additional funding for existing projects)

6. **Select the eligibility category below (A, B, C or D) that best fits your project and answer the corresponding questions for that category (choose only one category). 10 bonus points will be awarded to projects that are primarily Bicycle or Pedestrian facilities.**

☒ **A. Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities (includes Safe Routes for Non-Drivers and Conversion of abandoned railroad corridors.**

- (i) Will the project contribute to a system of pedestrian and/or bicycle facilities?
(10 points max.)

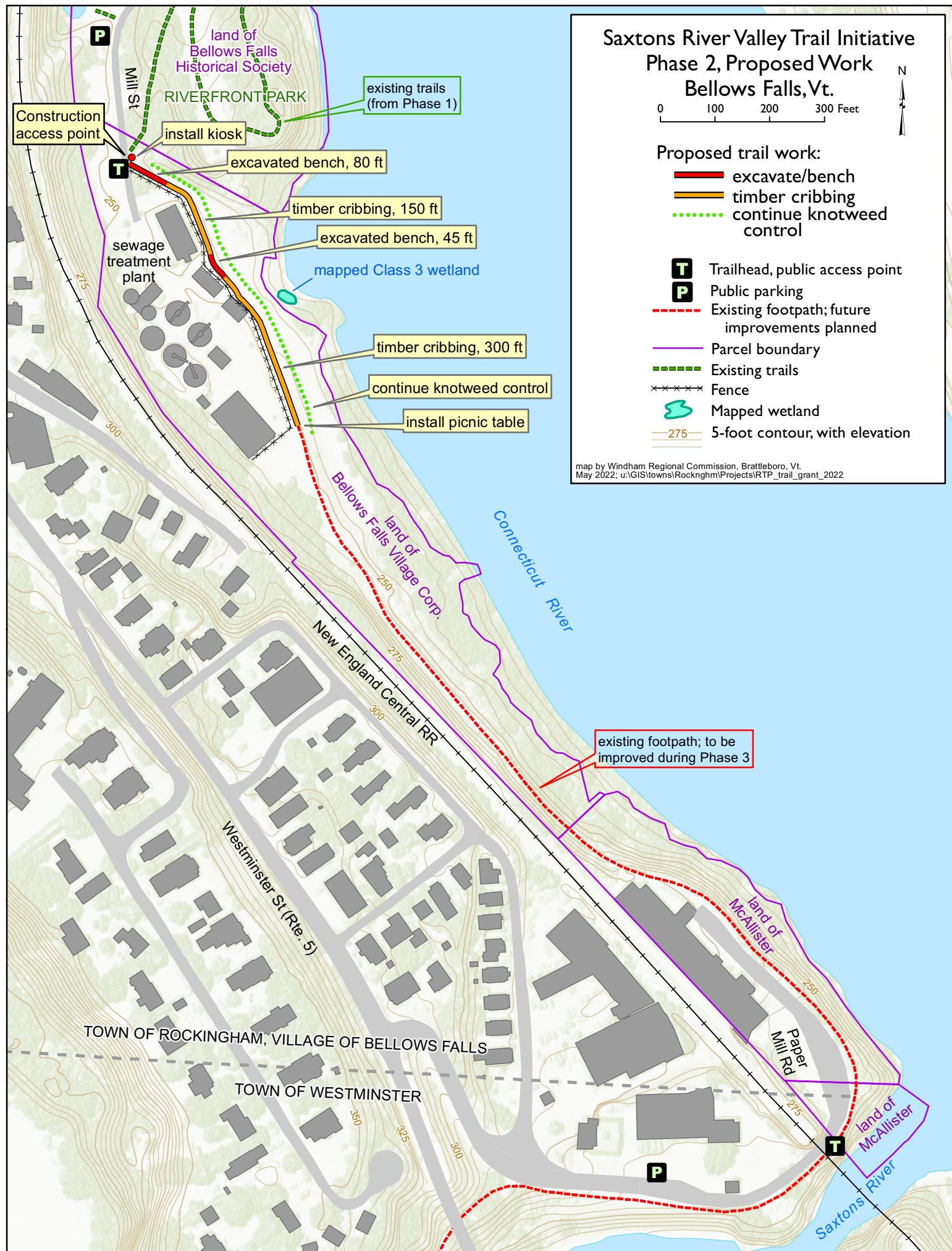
Yes, this mixed use bicycle and pedestrian trail will improve bike ped connectivity in Bellows Falls Village, the most populous village in Windham County, and better connect all village residents to Downtown. The proposed extension of the river walk trail is an important gap in our existing bicycle and pedestrian network, and expand opportunities for people walking and biking in the village to access downtown, the Connecticut and Saxtons rivers and improve connectivity between the 'Under the Hill' neighborhood and downtown. Please see map number 2 for more details.

- (ii) Will the project provide access to likely generators of pedestrian and/or bicyclist activity? **(10 points max.)**

Yes, this project provides connection to several important likely generators of pedestrian and bicycle traffic, including the Bellows Falls Historic Riverfront Park and Trail System, Downtown Bellows Falls, the densely populated southern end of the Bellows Falls Village, as well as Bellows Falls Union High School, located just south of the project area in neighboring North Westminster. Access to the riverfront from downtown is also an important aspect of this project, providing significantly improved walking and bicycling access from Downtown and the dense adjacent neighborhoods to both the Connecticut and Saxtons rivers. This proposed mixed use trail extension will allow residents at the southern end of Bellows Falls village, as well as students at Bellows Falls Union High School improved bicycle and pedestrian access to important amenities and institutions located downtown.

- (iii) Will the project address a known, documented safety concern? **(10 points max.)**

Yes, the formal paved portion of the Bellows Falls Riverfront Trail currently ends just south of the Designated Downtown near the end of Mill Street. The remainder of the trail south the Paper Mill Road is an informal, unpaved path that snakes through the woods on a steep incline limiting use and safety for all residents. This scoping study will determine the best option for expanding this section, addressing the existing incline that limits use for many residents, including people with disabilities and bicyclists, and creating a formal, accessible bicycle and pedestrian connection between Downtown Bellows Falls, Mill Street, and Paper Mill Road.





Town of Rockingham
Village of Bellows Falls

Office of the Municipal Manager

Town Hall, 7 Square
PO Box 370
Bellows Falls, VT 05101
Voice: (802) 376-9780
Email: manager@rockbf.org

December 14th, 2022

Mr. Scott Robertson
Transportation Alternatives Program Manager
VT Agency of Transportation
Highway Division
Municipal Assistance Bureau
219 North Main Street
Barre, VT 05641

Dear Mr. Robertson:

The Selectboard of the Town of Rockingham at its regular meeting of December 6, 2022 authorized the manager to execute application documents and support letter for Transportation Alternatives Scoping Grant and commit \$10,000 match from the Town Funds, for the Bellows Falls River Front Trail extension.

This Trail extension provides connections supported by both the Town Plan adopted August 30, 2016 and the Regional Plan of 2021, as described in the application.

Thank you for your consideration,
Sincerely,

Scott D Pickup

Scott Pickup
Municipal Manager
#7 the Square, bellows Falls, VT 05101

e-mail: manager@rockbf.org
Phone: 802 376-9780.



December 8th, 2022

Mr. Scott Robertson
Transportation Alternatives Program Manager
VT Agency of Transportation
Highway Division
Municipal Assistance Bureau
219 North Main Street
Barre, VT 05641

Dear Scott:

On behalf of the Windham Regional Commission I am writing in support of the application by the Town of Rockingham for a scoping study to extend the Bellows Falls River walk mixed use pathway to the southern end of the village and connect Paper Mill Road with Downtown through the VTrans Transportation Alternatives Program. The Bellows Falls River walk is an important recreation and transportation resource in the village of Bellows Falls within the town of Rockingham, providing active transportation opportunities for bicyclists and pedestrians in the village, and connecting the Designated Downtown of Bellows Falls with Rockingham's only dedicated access to the Connecticut River, as well as important historic sites in the "Under the Hill" neighborhood.

The application is supported by the Windham Regional Plan, readopted June 2021 including the following provisions:

1. Regional Goals: Promote transportation infrastructure decisions that foster economic growth and diversity, consistent with local and regional economic development policies. (pg. 4)
2. Promote the development and maintenance of an intermodal transportation system that is economically efficient and environmentally sound, and that enables the movement of people and goods in an energy efficient manner. (pg. 4)
3. To provide for safe, convenient, economical, and energy efficient transportation systems including options such as public transit and paths for pedestrians and bicyclists, where appropriate; (pg. 5)

[Type here]

4. To maintain and enhance recreational opportunities for both residents and visitors in keeping with the carrying capacity of natural resources and public facilities; (pg. 6)
5. To plan for, finance, and provide an efficient system of public facilities and services (such as schools, water and wastewater facilities, highways and bridges) to meet future local, regional, and state needs. (pg. 6)

Extending the ADA accessible bicycle and pedestrian path to the southern end of the village will provide a dedicated bicycle and pedestrian connection for residents at the southern end of the village with Downtown Bellows Falls as well as both the Connecticut and Saxtons Rivers. These improvements will allow better connection to the economic and cultural amenities available in Downtown for those residents, as well as improve bicycle and pedestrian connections to downtown for students of Bellows Falls Union High School, located just south of the project area in North Westminster. This project will support economic development in Downtown, provide improved access to recreational and natural resources on both the Connecticut and Saxtons rivers, as well as create a dedicated bicycle and pedestrian path within walking distance for Bellows Falls residents, promoting active transportation and healthy living. We encourage the agency to fund this application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CB', with a horizontal line extending to the left.

Colin Bratton,
Transportation Planning Program Coordinator
Windham Regional Commission

Rockingham Selectboard

Tuesday, December 6, 2022, 6 pm

Present: Chair, Peter Golec; Vice-Chair Susan Hammond; Rick Cowan, Bonnie North, Elijah Zimmer, Selectboard; Scott Pickup, Municipal Manager; Gary Fox, Development Director; Walter Wallace, Certified League of Government coordinator; John Leppman, Historic Preservation Commission Chair; Paul Noble, Lister; Lyssa Papazian, Historic Preservation Consultant; Margo Ghia, Windham Regional Commission, Natural Resources Planner; Laurel Green, Rockingham Conservation Commission member ; Resident, Steve Crofter; Annette Spaulding, HPC Commissioner

Zoom: Alyssa Harlow, Finance Director; Devyn Coleman, Division of Historic Preservation; Bob Neeld, Engineering Ventures

Press: FACT TV; Betsy Thurston; The Shopper; Susan Smallheer; Brattleboro Reformer

AGENDA

Call to Order: Regular Meeting of the Rockingham Selectboard called to order at 6:35 pm by Chair Golec due to technical difficulties with zoom.

Approve the minutes of November 15, 2022: *North moved to approve the minutes seconded by Hammond, and the motion passed.*

Additions to the Agenda for Routine Administrative Matters and/or Pressing Matters that will require ratification at a future meeting: Pickup said the Cannabis Control Commission needed a different format for adopting a local Board and requested the Board sign in order to be considered the Local CCC.

Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda (3 minutes per person): Thurston told the Board that Matt from Shanks Electric had another idea for the lights and would get the snowflake swag lit up again.

Manager's Report- Pickup said Bids were out to replace the tire shed at the recycling center. The Town Highway crew was doing the milling and site preparation; the building would be removed next week.

1. Appointment to Planning Commission- Remy Walker- Scott Phillips was stepping down, the PC recommended Walker to fill his seat from 2021-2024 beginning December 6, 2022. *Zimmer moved to approve Walker for the term above, Cowan seconded, motion passed.*
2. Rockingham Meeting House Historic Structures Report Update- Leppman said the Meeting House belongs to the Town and at 235 years old, there is no surprise it has fairly significant structural concerns.
Wallace said that in early August the team of Papazian, Bob Neeld, and Arnold & Scangas were hired to assess the building with support from the select board and funding by Vermont Historic Preservation, Preservation Trust of Vermont, private donations and reserve funds. Papazian said they are still processing a "huge amount of data" and presented some of the conclusions and cost projections. The archaeologists on the team were Tom Jamison and Josh Laughlin, a restoration

carpenter. She said they had done research on what was done in the last forty years' reports and assessments. They performed an electronic scan which provided the floor plans with measurements. Assessments of pews, plaster & windows, the scope and 3D tour. Papazian said there was rot on the Southwest corner under the clapboards and a lean to the balcony. Within the foundation, fine, damp soils, poor drainage, deteriorated sash, Dry sun damaged wood on the interior and missing supports under pews. Exterior paint spots were bad where water infiltrated, and plaster issues. They found unpainted boards, open seams, and flashing in disrepair or missing. She noted the code violations included the life safety and ADA; the ramp which was not to code and there were no exit signs or emergency lighting. Papazian said the virtual 3D tour was made, enabling them to see areas you can't walk, images and an ability to turn around to see everything; for example upstairs on the balcony. Neeld spoke of Jamison's findings; the foundation included granite that was 14-18" deep with 10" of stone rubble upon native material: a mix of silt and clay; which is very frost-susceptible and has caused movement of stones and the heaving and settling of the ground. Neeld said there were places of high moisture content on flooring areas where the soil made contact with the wood. Neeld said the broken windows most likely were a result of exterior wall movement. Papazian said they were concerned with the integrity of the flooring showing rot. The team presented two options for the building foundation; a new one under the existing; or a shallow frost-protected foundation. The first; involved moving a number of current stones and lifting the building to gain access below to reinforce and replace the footings. The second; a shallow foundation also involved lifting and used insulation to provide frost protection. Papazian noted there were concerns for the secondary option on access to the interior footing and timbers for inspection and that it may require exterior excavation, increasing the costs. Option 1 \$500k, option 2 \$295k, Papazian said the trim, siding, painting, and flashing was projected at \$167k. She explained that 15 % of clapboards would need replacing, but that hand planed ones would be replaced in-kind. They would add metal handrails for code, and the painting should involve proper preparation of primer and two coats. The slate roof issues included drainage and replacing flashing=\$15,000. Papazian said that window restorer Sally A. Fishburn assessed the windows; 8 were replaced in 1981 and 2 had been recently restored. Fishburn recommended restoration if possible to preserve the original fabric, because using a reproduction loss of the integrity of the property. full restoration was estimated at \$187k, reproduction at \$203k. ADA access; a pew would be removed, new design for ramp at \$21.4K. Papazian said portions of the plaster were restored in 2011 and 2020, and 58% has been conserved to preservation level which still showed holes. She showed photographs of the cracks and "graffiti on the walls" under whitewash dated from 1906. There were pieces delaminating, prior restorations showed dark adhesives and she said, "the ceiling was never done." Preservation level at \$80k. They suggested a full restoration of adhering, filling holes, and feathering prep for a refinish of whitewash treatment for \$93k plus \$24k more for the rest of the plaster to be fully restored. A pew assessment showed restoration at \$99.7k a previous study was done in 2005 by Chris Cole; many of his recommendations were not done. She said the wood is fairly dry; suggesting they add moisture, and wax finish \$66k for 2nd floor \$39k. The trim and flooring \$71k, 2nd floor \$47k. To sand and seal \$17k 2nd floor \$12k. The code deficiencies were unlimited upstairs. Capacity kept at assembly use of 49 people and downstairs only, but egress doors noncompliant; exit door opens up to steps. She said the minimum necessary were signs and emergency lighting at a cost of \$8200 and detection/alarm system for \$32,000. Papazian suggested a balance of preservation and maintaining integrity. She said too much change "undermines the ability to raise money..." "its importance is, it's not changing." She urged Rockingham to look at preservation and restoration in order to protect the investment. Cowan asked Wallace what the Meeting House was used for in the past. Wallace said that historically it's been used for weddings, memorials, music events, and fundraisers. The Roots on the River festival attracted 300 people on Fred Eaglesmith's last appearance in 2013, ending in 2019. Wallace said last year, the RMH hosted 2 weddings both with 50-80 attendees. This fall, they had

their best attendance yet for the Rockingham Old House Awards. Leppman said there was no fix for capacity that preserves the integrity of the balcony, suggesting it might be appropriate for a photographer, but otherwise the use of the balcony is extremely limited. Wallace said the balcony was closed to visitors in 2019, after plaster started falling. Spaulding said she appreciated the thorough assessment and said, "The building is so important...it's the foundation of our community." Wallace said this is an extraordinary cost, but explained there are programs that support preservation work through the National Park Service and Rockingham has applied and been approved congressional spending through Bernie Sanders office for \$360,000. The Save America's Treasures (SAT) grant program started in the 1990s to help save National Historic Landmarks offers a grant up to \$750,000, the Town is looking at how best to approach the application with its required 1:1 match. Wallace said the Town has the support of PTV and VT Div. HP, it must be a strong effort to match. Wallace said, "if we are to preserve and conserve the building for our children and grandchildren; there are severe issues we need to creatively address. The building must be stabilized from the ground up."

Development Director Gary Fox asked if the final report will indicate a recommendation sequence; what to start first and what items would be in jeopardy if pushed back; or waiting for repair. Papazian said the final report would give this information.

3. Authorize consulting services contract for hydroelectric property- Pickup explained this was part of the five-year tax stabilization process, recommending George E Sansoucy, PE LLCdba Sansoucy Associates for the service contract. Noble explained that after a Board member came to the office and asked what the Listers do; the Listers office started an analysis for the Department to determine the security of the Grand List. Part of the study had to include the Power Station and they reestablished the value of the plant. This will accomplish reasonable & fair analysis both for the Town & owner. Hammond asked about the timeframe of the sale of the dam and if the price sold affects the assessed value, Noble said they don't value property on sale price; state mandate on income basis and what it's used for. The \$2B deal is deceptive that price is for 13 plants, and Great River Hydro is a subsidiary of Quebec Hydro, the new owners. He said they can tax the amount of energy they sell. *Hammond moved to approve the contract, North seconded,* Cowan asked if it was a set amount. Pickup said the fixed price of \$40k was stated in the contract. *The motion passed.*
4. Outstanding Resource Water Presentation (ORW) - Green introduced the details on the lengthy application process to designate 3 waterways as ORW the RCC and WRC we're working on. Ghia said the designation would protect these sections but they must have the following features: exceptional natural, cultural, scenic, recreational or scenic value. An anti-degradation law protects past use, this designation would preserve at the level it is today. Currently there is 1 ORW designated at Pikes Falls in Jamaica. 3 they are applying for: Herricks Cove & CT River, CT River/Great Falls including the petroglyphs and the Canal, and Williams River including Brockway Mills dam, Sokoki Falls and gorge. Ghia said this process could take up to 2 years, each location is a separate application. Crofter said the name for the Sokoki Falls was chosen by the Abenaki Chiefs of VT/NH and federally recognized.
5. Swap Shop update- North visited and questioned 3 shops: Springfield, Bratt and Walpole each operates differently all are located in facilities larger than Rockingham, all have numerous volunteers(except Springfield), specific hours for shopping & donations and a separate building to work from. She spent time at the Rock recycling center and commented that sometimes it's slow and then suddenly "all hell breaks loose". North concluded that there is not enough room

for a swap shop at the recycling center. The building has numerous entries; there's too many people going in & out, there's no room for parking. She said she was proud of how well the center functions and is very organized & clean. With state mandates the majority of product is recycled. She said we should have a swap shop but not on Route 5 and it's key to have: volunteers, a decent location and parking. The Board thanked Bonnie.

6. Approve submission of VTrans Alternative Grant for trail extension- Fox explained this was a scoping application to identify the best alignment for the trail and look at methods to make it fully accessible and ADA if possible. Golec asked where the funds were coming from. Pickup said there was additional funds available. Cowan said the Walk/Bike Committee supports this as a benefit to Town on the waterfront. They are hosting a forum at the Library in January. *North to Authorize Municipal Manager to execute application and documents and a support letter from the governing body of the applicant municipality with acknowledgement and source of the local match of \$10,000 for Transportation Alternatives Grant scoping study for the trail expansion of the Bellows Falls Historic Riverfront Park and Trail System south through Liberty Mill. Zimmer seconded. The motion passed.*
7. Review 2024 General Fund Budget- Pickup gave highlights: Solid waste/recycling showed increase of materials, which increased cost, does not anticipate breaking even through 2024. Theatre is pushing live shows giving greater return on use. Movies have not returned to pre-pandemic levels but will maintain as an important community asset. Uncertainty of rising fuel costs. Open enrollment for employees through Blue Cross. Still looking at ambulance services. RFPs to mine gravel pit, GMP lines must go in for solar array. Suggests moving to "debt diet", but still paying past vehicle acquisitions. Big money topics next meeting. Depot Street Bridge is still on track for 2026, not heard about Bridge St. Board agreed Pickup should hire an Executive Assistant, Cowan concerned about Pickup's stress level. They discussed the job description of Asst with flexible hours, meeting attendance a must. Zimmer asked about a bridge reserve, Golec said there should be. They discussed Police in Lower Bartonsville, Hammond said it should be Town wide. Golec suggested it be on the Warning.
8. Financials-Golec suggested in 2024 the service agencies be screened by a committee for the requested funding- now all 18 are approved in 1 lump sum.

Review & Approve Orders, Bills & Warrants- *North moved to approve, Cowan seconded. Motion passed.*
Review Agenda Items for next SB meeting on December 20, 2022

- Appoint Town Moderator- appoint Paul Obuchowski
- Financials
- Update Fire Ordinance
- Fire Department radio grant

Review Agenda Items for Joint/Tri-Board Meeting- Tuesday, November 29, 2022

December 15.

Other Business- Golec reminded Dept heads to get reports in for the Town Report, Deadline on Thursday,

Executive Session- *None*

Adjourn- At 9:32 pm Cowan moved and North seconded, meeting adjourned.

Attest: _____ Recording Clerk Betsy M. Thurston _____

Betsy Thurston, Recording Clerk

Rockingham Development

From: Assistant
Sent: Monday, November 28, 2022 1:36 PM
To: Rockingham Development
Subject: FW: VTrans Transportation Alternatives Grant for Rockingham

✓ Do you want to talk to Scott, or verify the area in question on google earth for him?

> Map Sent

From: Robertson, Scott <Scott.Robertson@vermont.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 28, 2022 12:07 PM
To: Assistant <execasst@rockbf.org>
Cc: Rockingham Development <development@rockbf.org>
Subject: RE: VTrans Transportation Alternatives Grant for Rockingham

[External Sender]

Hi Betsy and Gary,

Yes, Will Do VTrans
notification- gf

Thank you for asking! In this instance, any communication between VTrans districts wouldn't hurt the application however I don't think it's required since it appears that a section 1111 permit will not be required. Is there any way we can chat real quick and I can pinpoint the area in question On Google Earth? ↗

Thank you!

Scott Robertson, P.E. | Municipal Assistance Bureau - Proj. Mgr.
Vermont Agency of Transportation
Barre City Place | 219 North Main St. – 4th flr. | Barre, VT 05641
802-793-2395 | scott.robertson@vermont.gov
vtrans.vermont.gov



From: Assistant <execasst@rockbf.org>
Sent: Tuesday, November 22, 2022 2:37 PM
To: Robertson, Scott <Scott.Robertson@vermont.gov>
Cc: Gary Fox <development@rockbf.org>
Subject: VTrans Transportation Alternatives Grant for Rockingham

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hi Scott,

Rockingham is applying for the VTrans TA Grant and we had a question on the required notification to VTrans District Transportation Administration.

I received a message from Megan Davinci on a brief description of our trail location and she confirmed that the trail from Mill St. to the Liberty Mill parking lot and North of the Saxtons River, located between the RR and the CT River was not in or adjacent to VTrans ROW, however it was adjacent to the Railroad.

Rockingham Development

From: Assistant
Sent: Tuesday, November 22, 2022 2:37 PM
To: Rockingham Development
Subject: VTrans TA Grant

Hi Gary,

The 3 required letters are

Required RPC support letter (First, Colin) ✓

Required notification to VTrans District with description and plans (Second, Megan Davinci) ✓

Letter from Scott and Town with match support and a written commitment to future maintenance ✓

First,

I spoke with Colin today, explained where the trail was (from Mill St and Riverfront Trail to Liberty Mill parking lot)

Purpose to make it ADA and lower the incline of steepest part for ease and mobility

I remember the Town approving a 20K match, was that right? So he said that would be for \$100K funding?

He will take language from Rock Town Plan, WRC Regional Plan and I mentioned the trail would intersect trails from H.S., Saxtons River etc. part of the Michael Singer Study too.

He will send a check-in email to the both of us next week.

Colin also asked if you have a map of the area to submit? I thought so, but he said if not let him know and he can contact Jeff Nugent who can help with that.

Second,

I left a message with Megan Davinci from VTrans District 2 Transportation Admin on Right of Way question- whether we are in or adjacent to State of VT ROW. She called back and said by the location we should be fine with them, but mentioned we are definitely adjacent to the RR.

I will ask Scott Robertson (lead on this grant) if instead of the required VTrans notice, have one available for VT Rail Division.

I will cc you.

Third,

I read nowhere about any public notices, hearings etc. if you would like to give clarification on what to write for this. I will re-read the grant agreement now that I'm back online, it was hard to navigate on my phone...

So, if you could give me just a bit of guidance, I can write the public notice and letter of match support and commitment to future mtc. (through the Walk/Bike Committee right?)

Thank you,
Betsy



September 2, 2021

Peter Bergstrom
Saxtons River Trail Initiative
PO Box 504
Saxons River, VT 05154

Dear Peter,

Attached, please find the site design for this portion of the Saxtons River Valley Trail. The trail upgrades will include the following construction elements:

1. Over 1,500' of naturally surfaced trail tread. The tread will be built to 5' in width and will have predictable running grades of 0-10%. $\frac{3}{4}$ " minus trail surfacing will be installed and will be compacted and crowned to ensure proper surface drainage from rain water.
2. Along the entrance portion of the trail, 350' total linear feet of stone cribbing will be needed to support the trail tread. This is due to steep cross slopes and limited availability of tread for benching. The cribbing will be 1 tier in height and will rely on single stones that are set $\frac{1}{3}$ of their height in the ground for stability.
3. At the far end of the trail alignment, a series of stone steps will need to be installed to break up the existing running grade of the tread. The existing grade of 20%+ will be broken up with 3-4 sets of stone steps with 10% running grade between each set. A minimum of 2-3 steps per set will maintain grades and provide predictable footing for trail users.
4. An existing drainage swale will cross the alignment at the bottom of the set of stone steps. This portion will be protected with stone paving.

In addition to these construction standards, it is recommended to treat and remove the Japanese Knotweed along the edges of the trail. This will greatly improve the view of the river and the overall recreation experience offered on this segment of the Saxtons River Valley Trail.

Please review and let me know if you have questions.

Onward,

Josh Ryan
Trail Designer / Builder

Saxtons River Valley Trail
80 Mill Street
Bellows Falls, VT

Location Map



Project: Saxtons River Valley Trail

Location: Bellows Falls, VT

Saxtons River Valley Trail - 80 Mill Street Bellows Falls

Note: This trail log starts on the outside of the fenced facility on rivers side

Begin	End	Length	Photo #	Reference Point	Design Directive
0	0	0	1	Bellows Falls Historic Riverfront sign upper left	Begin trail where grass meets pavement. Fence is a fixed boundary along right side of trail.
0	0	0	2	Saxtons River Valley Trail logo upper right corner	Install kiosk at trail entrance on left side of trail.
0	0	0	3	Flowering vegetation on left	Eradicate Japanese knotweed 15-20' from fence. Begin excavation for benching of 5' wide trail. Finished surface to be compacted 3/4"-3/8" minus stone dust.
0	80	80	4	Orange rollwheel center of photo	Alignment becomes steeply sloped. Stone cribbing along downhill edge is required.
80	230	150	5	Knotweed leaves bottom left	Begin 150' stone cribbing. On average a 20" height of cribbing is needed to raise the grade on the outslope side of trail. Backslope of 30 degrees on downhill edge.
80	230	150	6	Concrete mound at fence post base	150' Stone cribbing downhill edge. 5'wide surfaced trail
230	275	45	7	Sumac fonds upper left	End stone cribbing.
230	275	45	8	Brick building top center	Continue excavated bench cut for 5' wide surfaced trail. Remove vegetation
275	330	55	9	Brick building upper right	End excavated bench cut. Begin stone cribbing.

Begin	End	Length	Photo #	Reference Point	Design Directive
330	373	43	10	Building along right side of photo	Continue stone cribbing.
373	373	0	11	Manhole cover	The first of many manhole covers to be worked around. In this case, crib around.
373	475	102	12	Chainlink fence along right side	Continue stone cribbing. Use excavated spoils on downhill side of cribbing, creating 30 degree backslope.
475	590	115	13	Japanese knotweed along left edge of photo	End stone cribbing at end of fence. Continue excavated bench cut. Use excavated spoils on downhill side of cribbing, creating 30 degree
590	1030	440	14	Telephone pole left	Option to end surfaced treadway at end of fenceline if building trail in segments. Otherwise, continue excavated bench cut.
590	1030	440	15	Japanese knotweed along left edge of photo	Continue excavated bench cut for 5' wide surfaced trail.
1030	1030	0	16	Manhole cover	Broadcast excavated spoils on downhill edge.
1250	1305	55	17	Dense vegetation	Telephone pole gateway. Work trail through gateway. Eradicate trailside knotweed left and right sides as able.
1305	1365	60	18	6'+ diameter concrete sewer pipe on right	Sewer pipe. Work trail centerline left as much as possible to avoid this feature.

Begin	End	Length	Photo #	Reference Point	Design Directive
1365	1471	106	19	Large vegetation on right	Alignment follows what was previously benched. Continue with excavating and benching for 5' wide surfaced trail.
1471	1545	74	20	Tree trunk top left corner	Manhole cover on left, bench centerline of trail alignment right.
1545	1565	20	21	Upclose leaves lower left	Existing grade 22-24%. Move center tread far left, avoid existing drainage on right. Install timber check- steps, minimum 5' runs between risers
1565	1576	11	22	Upclose knotweed lower left	Use stone paving to armor drainage crossing
1576	1632	56	22	Upclose vegetation lower left	End stone paved crossing. Trail alignment left. Drainage is riprapped. Begin stone steps
1632	1685	53	23	Cut vegetation lower left	Top of incline. End stone steps. Trim corridor. Alignment stays left.
1685	1685	0	24	Chemco Building on right	Corridor opens considerably. Stay far left. Align within vegetated corridor immediately after large telephone pole with guy wire.
Trail alignment continues along left side of Chemco Parking Area. Specific alignment and construction details to be determined after property boundaries are marked and acknowledged by all parties. Approximate length of this segment will be 1,200'.					

Saxtons River Valley Trail
80 Mill Street
Bellows Falls, VT



Photo 1

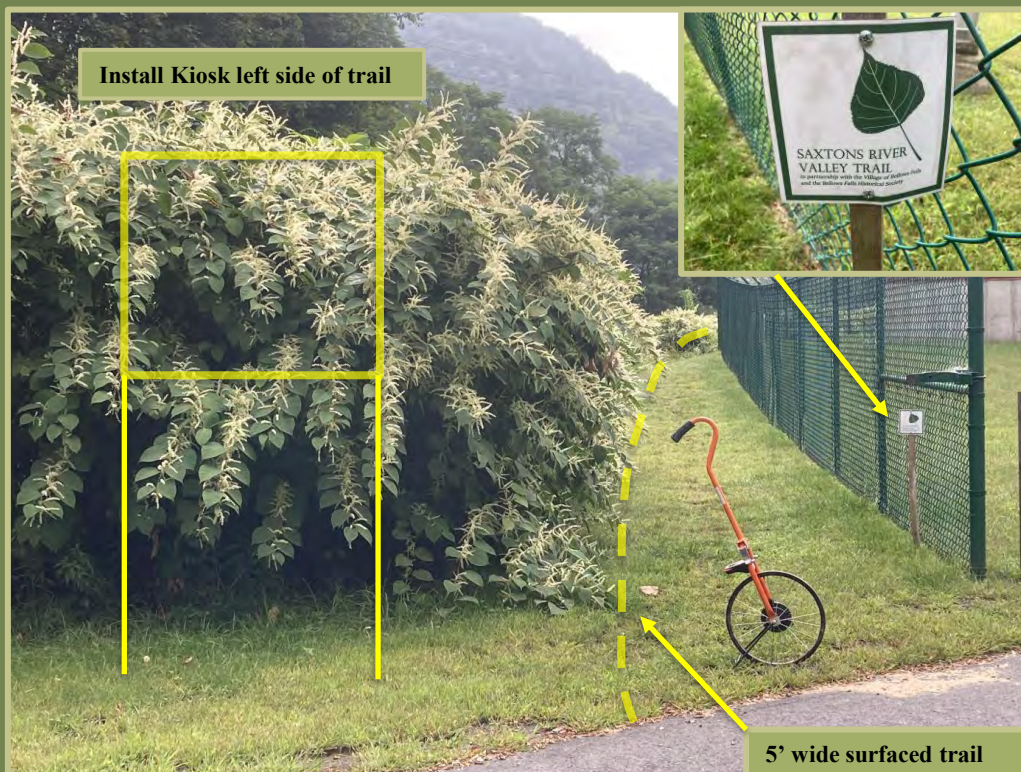


Photo 2

**Saxtons River Valley Trail
80 Mill Street
Bellows Falls, VT**

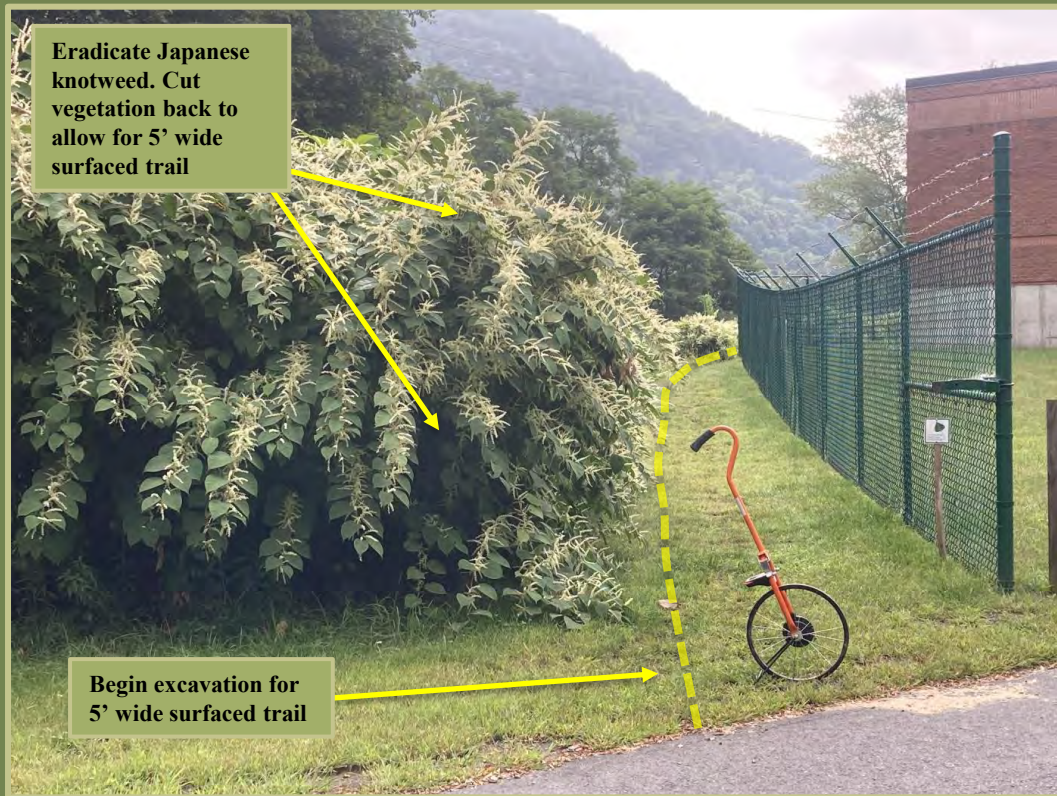


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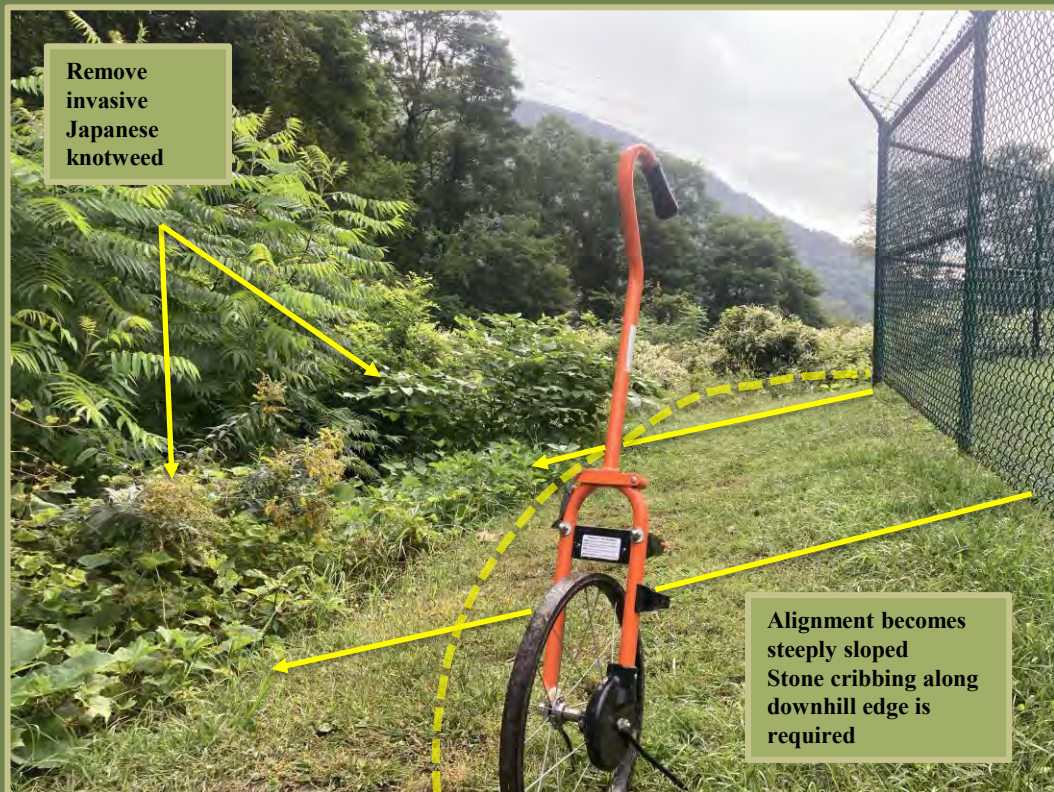


Photo 4

**Saxtons River Valley Trail
80 Mill Street
Bellows Falls, VT**

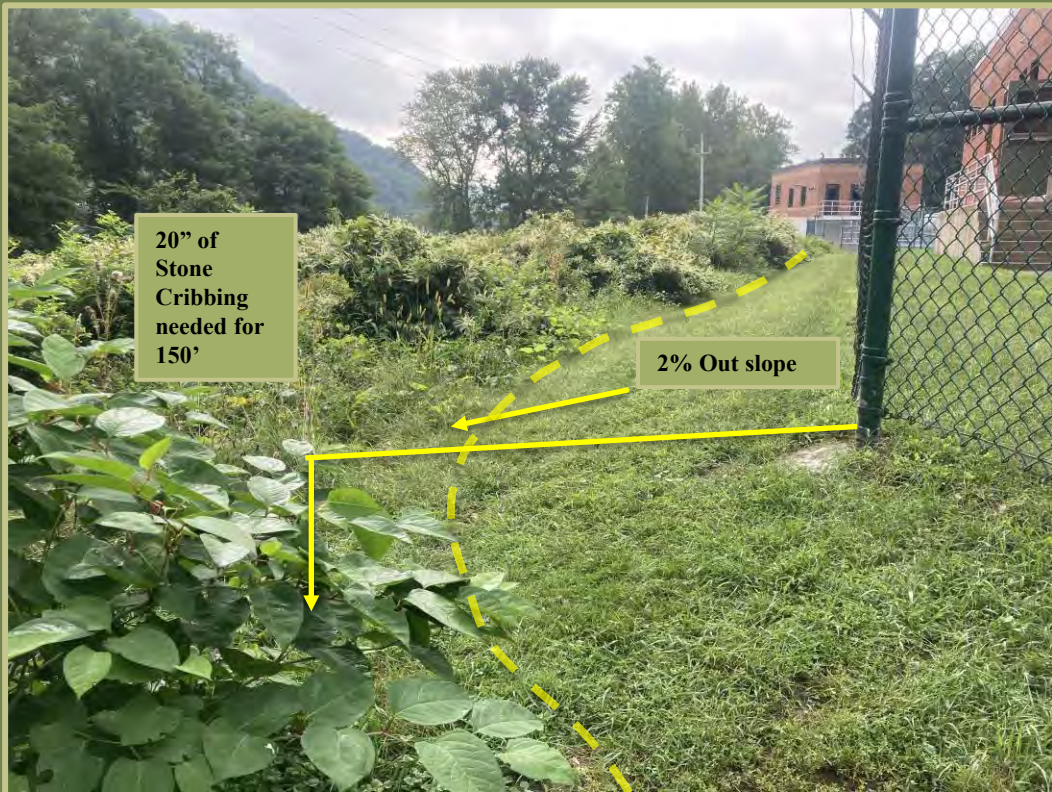


Photo 5



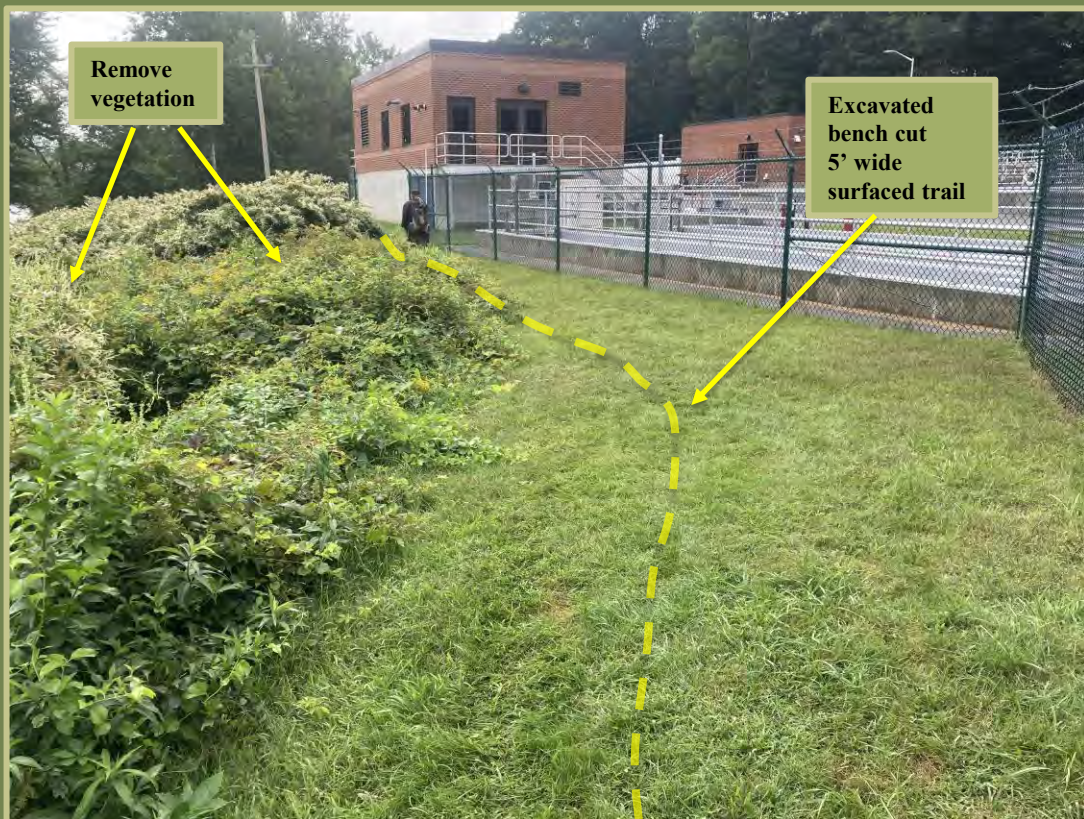
Photo 6

**Saxtons River Valley Trail
80 Mill Street
Bellows Falls, VT**

Photo 7



Photo 8

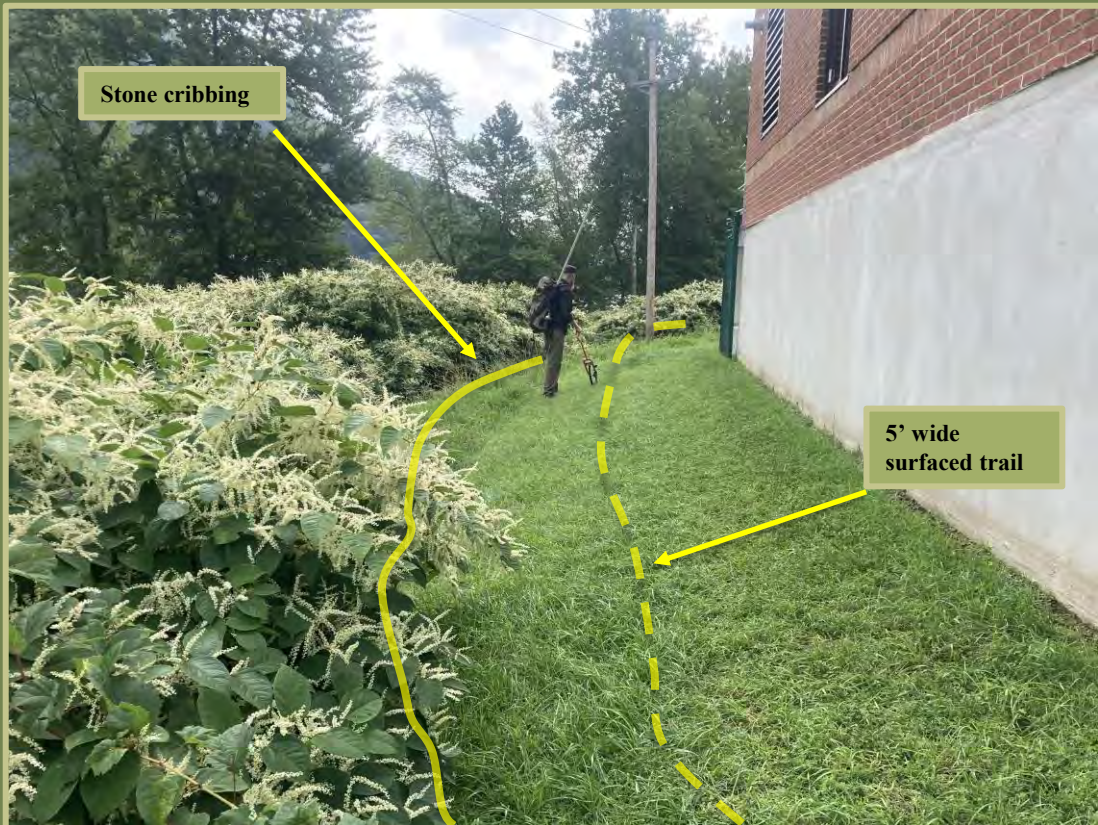


Saxtons River Valley Trail
80 Mill Street
Bellows Falls, VT

Photo 9



Photo 10

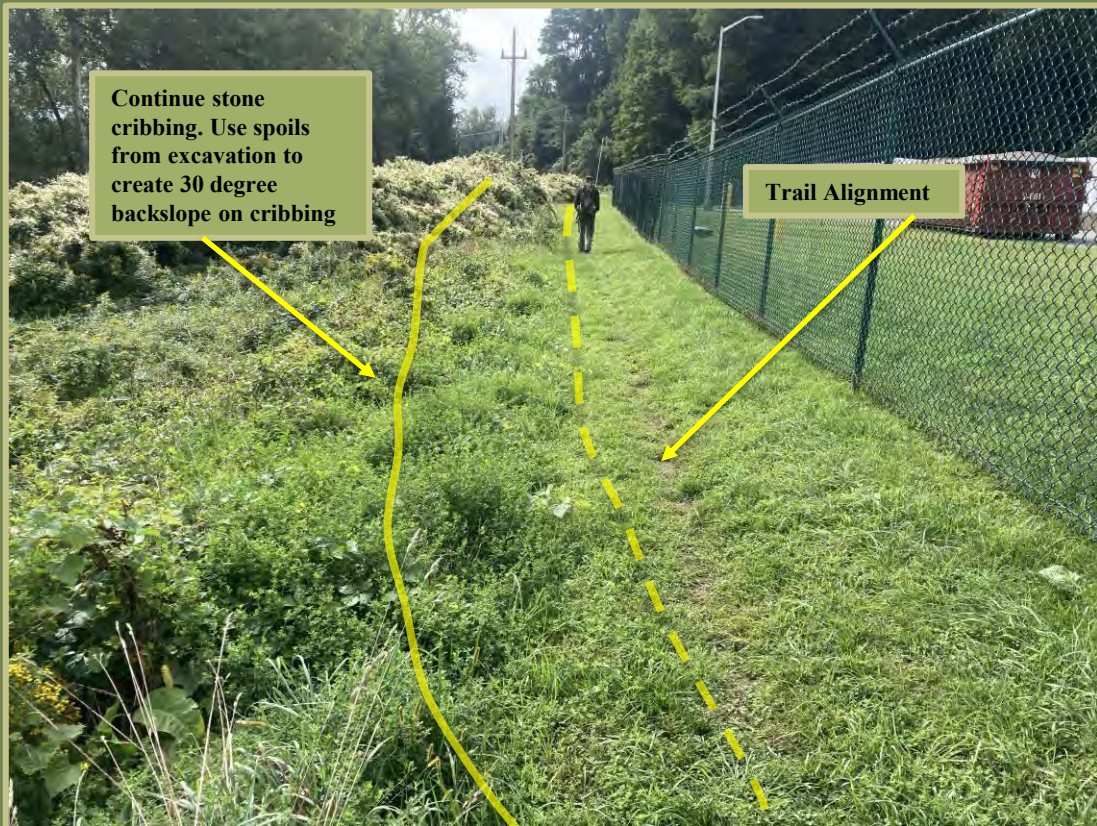


Saxtons River Valley Trail
80 Mill Street
Bellows Falls, VT

Photo 11



Photo 12



Saxtons River Valley Trail
80 Mill Street
Bellows Falls, VT



Photo 13



Photo 14

Saxtons River Valley Trail
80 Mill Street
Bellows Falls, VT



Photo 15



Photo 16

Saxtons River Valley Trail
80 Mill Street
Bellows Falls, VT

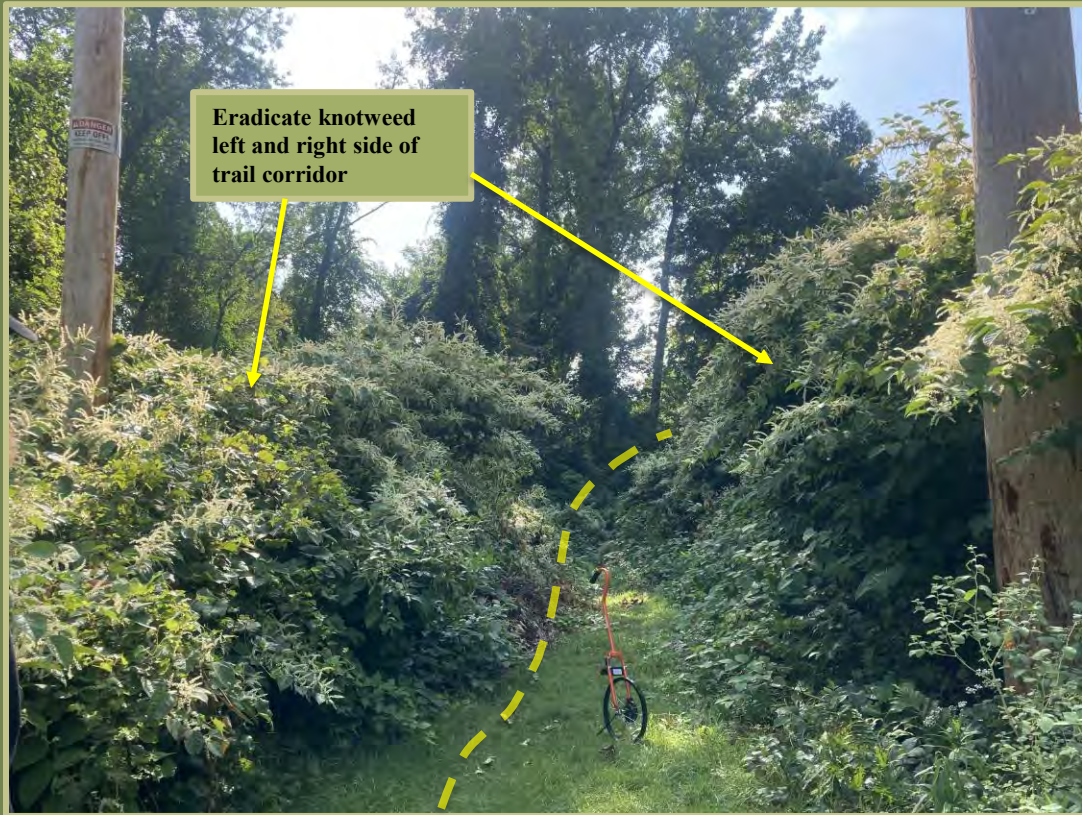


Photo 17



Photo 18

Saxtons River Valley Trail
80 Mill Street
Bellows Falls, VT



Photo 19

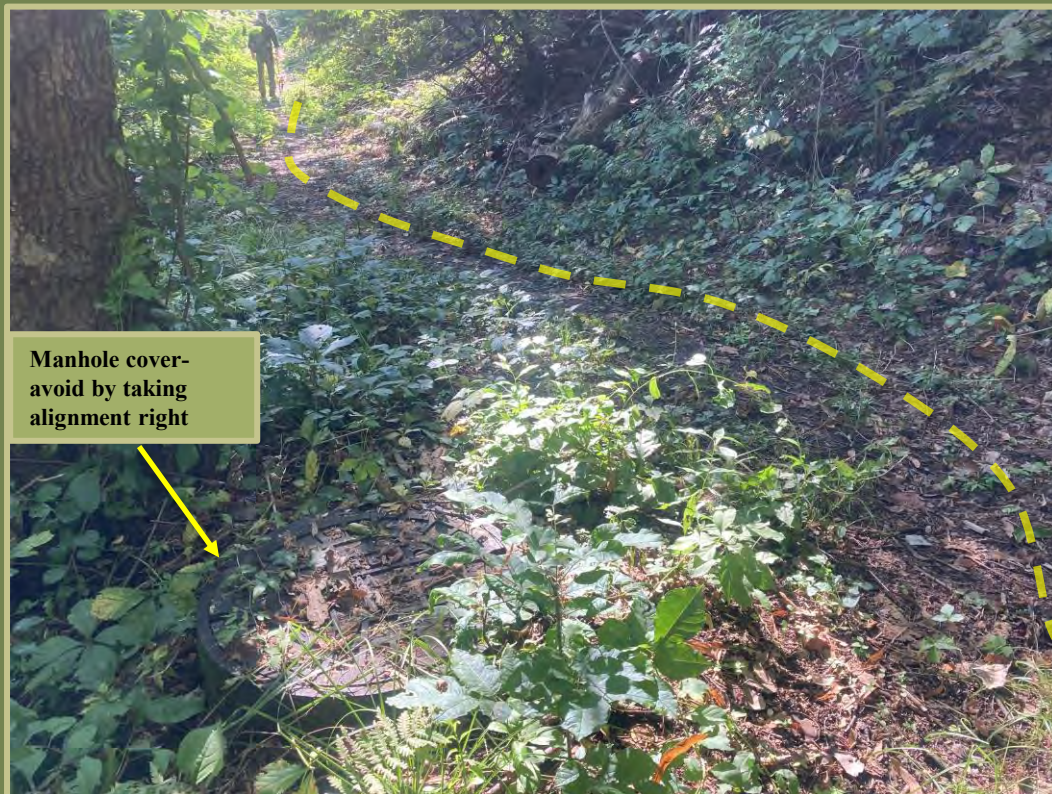


Photo 20

**Saxtons River Valley Trail
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Bellows Falls, VT**



Photo 21



Photo 22

**Saxtons River Valley Trail
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Photo 23



Photo 24