



**TOWN OF
Seabrook, New Hampshire
Conservation Commission
99 LAFAYETTE RD., P.O. BOX 456 – 03874**



January 21, 2010

RE: Seabrook Rail Trail

To Whom it May Concern,

The Seabrook Conservation Commission supports the creation of a recreational trail along the ROW of the NHDOT owned section of the old B&M rail line that bisects Seabrook.

The citizens already use this passage to some degree, but would greatly benefit from improvements to the trail. Some areas need brush and tree pruning. Some sections could benefit from a more suitable base. The current gravel is rutted in some areas and puddles of water remain several days after a good rain. Also some sections have considerable erosion problems. The run-off has contributed to our need to dredge the ponds adjacent to the railway.



There is an arched culvert of historic importance and eligible for the National Register. To date the Seabrook Conservation Commission has not been successful in convincing the State of New Hampshire (which owns the rail line) to initiate the process to have this listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The local youth have not only added graffiti to the arch, in the past several years they have begun to push the cap stones of the wing walls into the waterway in. The Conservation Commission’s engineering advisor for our Cains Brook Watershed Restoration Project has estimated that this activity has added over fifty thousand dollars in costs to our restoration project. These granite blocks will have to be removed from the waterway and the arch must be restored and stabilized. Unfortunately we have had little support from NHDOT in preventing further vandalism or supporting our restoration work. Without the State’s support, we will not be able to do any of the necessary work.



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The town owns a 1.5 acre parcel of land that abuts the railway and Cain’s Mill Pond. During the development of Home Depot a small park was created in this area with the intent of providing a picnic area with both pond and trail access.

It is our recommendation that the first section of this railway to be worked on should be the section between Railroad Ave. and the Library. Our Senior Housing complex is located on Railroad Ave. a short distance from the railway. Improving the trail in this area would provide the seniors, and other users, a scenic connection between their residences and the library, plus easy walking access to the retail plaza that abuts the west side of the railway opposite the library.

The Conservation Commission would be grateful for any influence you may have with the State of NHDOT Bureau of Rails and Trails in assisting us with gaining permission for further restoration of the trail that will complement our proposed parks and pond restoration along the rail corridor.

Very truly yours,

Susan E. Foote, Chairman

Seabrook Conservation Commission