SWANTON ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

March 30, 2021

The Swanton Selectboard
1 Academy Street
Swanton, VT 05488

Dear Swanton Selectboard Members,

On behalf of the Swanton Enhancement Project and the Swanton Recreation Committee, we want to take a moment to thank you for giving us the time to present a plan for increasing the recreational and community opportunities for the Town of Swanton. As can be seen by the number of people that attended the public meeting on March 16 and by the positive correspondence received, there is a large amount of energy behind this initiative.

Attached is an outline of how we plan to proceed. We wanted to share this with you and ask for any input you may have.

Thank you again,

Deborah L. Winters

Debbie Winters, SEP Co-Chair

Betsy Fournier, SEP Co-Chair
Rec Department Chair

Attachment

Special Committee Proposal

Special Committee on Swanton Recreation and Community Assets:
4th Street Property

Situation: The State has recently completed the Western terminus of the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail (LVRT) which connects directly to Swanton's Dick Thompson Fit and Healthy Rec Path. The 1.2 acre former Town Garage land is located on the Rec Path. The Selectboard is allowing the Swanton Enhancement Project, the Swanton Recreation and other stakeholders to propose options for increasing the recreational / community opportunities for Swanton on that site.

Mission: To provide the Swanton Selectboard and the Swanton Community with a comprehensive plan to improve the recreation / community opportunities along the Fit and Healthy Rec Path and the LVRT. Proposed uses of the 4th Street property are to be included. Possible improvements to the Rec fields and Ronald Kilburn Transportation Museum can be included.

Members: Proposed Steering Committee Membership would include:

- Joel Clark – Co-Chair, SEP
- Betsy Fournier – Co-Chair, SEP and Swanton Recreation
- Chris Sweeny – SEP Healthy Communities Task Force
- Terri O'Shea – SEP Representative of MVSD Schools
- Debbie Winters – SEP
- Kathy Lavoie – NRPC
- Swanton Planning Commission – 1 Representative
- Nicole Draper – Swanton Rec and Town of Swanton
- Judy Ashley – Community Member
- Yeshua Pastina – Community Member, Adjacent Land Owner

Focus Areas:

1. Recreation Department needs for additional space / land
2. Coordination with NRPC/Municipal Leaders re: LVRT, review of all land assets-4th St., State land at trailhead, etc.
3. Discussions with municipalities along finished portions of trail (St. J, Morrisville, Cambridge/Jeffersonville) – Who uses trail? What are their needs? Amenities? What types of businesses do they frequent? How have they marketed the trail?
4. Community Input – What would our community like to see on the 4th St. land? Western Terminus?
5. Signage – how to direct trail / path users to other Swanton assets

Deliverables: Multi-year plan with sketches and cost estimates for improvements as well as recommended source for funding.

Special Consideration – No motorized vehicles on the Rec Path other than wheelchairs. A careful examination of the eastern entrance to the Rec Path for improvements to prevent motorized vehicles.

Proposed Schedule:
April – Steering Committee Forms
May/June – 1st Public Input Event
June/July – Prepare Draft Plan
August – 2nd Public Input Event
September – Present draft to Selectboard
October/November – Revise draft
December – Present final to Selectboard