



## TOWN OF WARNER

P.O. Box 265

Warner, New Hampshire 03278-0265

Telephone: (603)456-2298

Fax: (603) 456-2297

Board of Selectmen

David E. Hartman – Chairman

David Karrick, Jr.

Clyde Carson

Town Administrator

Jim Bingham ext. 231

November 15, 2013

New Hampshire Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant Program Application Evaluators

Re: Town of Warner Application to Launch a ¾ Mile Kick Off Section of Rail Trail at Bagley Field

Dear Evaluation Committee:

The Town of Warner appreciates the opportunity this grant provides to help us launch an ambitious project that will transform our town. High speed roadways have had the effect of dividing our community for the last 50 years. We believe a multiuse rail trail will make a great contribution to the community of Warner, allowing all our residents to feel more a part of the town.

The specific launch project has been selected for many reasons. It is very likely to see heavy use because of its location alongside town playing fields. It is very likely to spark strong continued interest in extending the trail by alerting the public to the planned route in both directions from this segment. This town improvement reaches towards some of our neighborhoods that have fewer town amenities and feel cut off from the economic and cultural centers of town. And finally, it delivers a great value for the cost of the project.

We thank you for the opportunity to apply and applaud your organization for what it is doing to improve active living throughout the state of New Hampshire.

Yours Truly,

*Jim Bingham*

Jim Bingham  
Town Administrator

## 2013 New Hampshire Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant Program Grant Application

Complete and submit the requested materials by 5:00 p.m., November 15, 2013 to [nhbicycleandpedestriangrant@gmail.com](mailto:nhbicycleandpedestriangrant@gmail.com). Limit the entire package to 7 pages. Send entire package as one PDF file. Handwritten submissions will not be accepted. The Review Committee reserves the right to award less than the amount requested. For additional background information, please go to: <http://www.healnh.org/communities-in-action/community-grant-program/395-2013-nh-bicycle-and-pedestrian-grant.html>. Applications will be evaluated on a combination of factors that include, but are not limited to:

Project Quality: Project scope, applicant's ability to complete project successfully, resources available, alignment between community need and project response, thoughtfulness in location and purpose, and the reasons and methods for picking this project at this time.

Measurement and Evaluation: Applicant's desired outcomes and understanding of what success will look like, how the applicant will measure the potential increase in walking and bicycling in community, and applicant's projections on how many more people will walk and/or bicycle.

Community Support and Partnerships: Reasons why this project is a priority, capacity to make the project a success, and engagement (community, business, and leadership).

Role of NHBPGP Funding: Ability of NHBPGP funds to make a difference, match or leverage of NHBPGP funds.

Diversity: Geographic, project type, size of community, how this project will directly benefit low and moderate residents in the community.

### **I. Cover Letter:**

Please provide a cover letter of no more than one page that addresses the following: introduce your organization or town, what issues/needs you are solving by proposing this project, the role this funding will play in your project, and how you plan to leverage these funds against others. You may also discuss community demographics and challenges.

### **II. General Information:**

Organization: <u>Town of Warner</u>	Project Lead: <u>Jim Bingham, Town Administrator</u>
Project Lead Phone: <u>(603).456.2298</u>	Project Lead Email: <u>administrator@warner.nh.us</u>
Name of Project: <u>Warner Rail Trail at Bagley Field</u>	Project Location: <u>Bagley Field, Map 7 Lot 9 and Map 7 Lot 2</u>
Date requested funds needed: <u>ASAP</u>	Requested Amount: <u>\$10,000</u>
	(As stated in Grant Request Letter)

Who are your partners participating in this project? List and indicate role of volunteers, supporters, businesses, other groups who will help make your project a reality, including any political support received.

Warner Board of Selectmen, Conservation Commission, and Energy Committee all support this trail effort. We have letters of support from the Simonds School Principal, and the board of directors of the Warner Youth Sports Association (WYSA). We have numerous volunteers from town eager to work on this section.

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### III. Project Specifics:

Briefly describe your project and its purpose. What will your project build, improve, develop or accomplish?

This project serves multiple purposes. It will provide an essential ¾ + mile kickoff section of trail in town located at the site of town playing fields. This developed trail area will provide family members with additional recreation opportunities while staying in viewing distance of the soccer fields, allowing alternatives to just sitting as spectators. This trail section will cross the Warner River using an existing steel bridge near one end and parallels the Warner River past the soccer fields at the other end, affording many views of the river and providing the opportunity to observe a variety of wildlife in natural habitat. The project will clear and widen the old rail bed for safe access for biking and hiking along the Warner River and build a new wooden deck on the steel bridge over the Warner River. Trailhead parking will be constructed. Signage along the trail will also be established and some portions of the trail surface will be reinforced with nit-pack as needed to create a stable surface for biking. This trail section will provide accessible recreational activities for all seasons.

What are the long-term desired outcomes of your project? Include a brief explanation of how this project will support bicycling and walking as modes of transportation to work, school and other key destinations.

The long term goals of this project are:

1. Provide bike and pedestrian route that enable travelers to avoid using Rte 103.
2. To re-unite Warner, which has been sliced apart by Interstate 89 and Route 103.
3. To offer a practical alternative non-motorized route that will get people from the south and the west of town to Warner's two economic centers; downtown Warner with the Simonds School and the Intervale commercial area near Exit 9.
4. Link Warner with Contoocook Village, Hopkinton schools and Hopkinton playing fields on their section of trail.

What are the short/near term goals – how will this funding move the project along?

The short term goal is to open the ¾ mile section of the railroad bed along Bagley field, re-deck a trestle railroad bridge, establish signage and a parking area, clearing some trees and brush and stabilizing the soft surfaces in a few sections. Brush clearing will be accomplished with volunteer labor as well as the professional production of signage. Funds will be used to purchase material for the signs. This funding will enable the bridge to be re-decked, which will cost approximately \$15,000. The town will donate time and materials to create the trailhead parking and barriers in areas where unauthorized motor vehicles can currently access the trail.

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What is the full project timeline and timeline if this request is part of a larger effort?

Plans are being made to organize volunteer teams to begin clearing parts this trail section, hopefully before winter snows. The funds being requested will be used to assess the condition of the bridge, its decking and railing, order and install appropriate decking material of lasting durability, which will allow bikers and pedestrians to cross the bridge safely. We anticipate a formal dedication in late spring when the work is complete. The overall project of extending the rail trail through Warner and linking it to trail segments in neighboring communities will take considerably longer and will be done in planned increments.

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Who are/ will be the users of the project? Also, please address how this project will directly benefit low and moderate income residents in the community.

This rail grade runs along the Warner River, through the economic centers of town, near the school, right by the town playing fields, next to two covered bridges, past a buffalo farm and connects Warner to neighboring Contoocook. We anticipate this trail will be heavily used by many of our citizens as well as many visitors to the Kearsarge region seeking this type of recreation activity. Many of Warner's residents with low / moderate fixed incomes live quite close to the proposed extended trail in such areas as Pleasant Lane, Casino Circle, and Sansone Lane, for example. The Brayside apartment building is right next to this initial section. The trail also has the potential to bring a transformation to Chemical Lane and Willey Lane in Warner Village that, today, are neglected neighborhoods hidden from the town's main activity areas.

What will this project's impact on bicycle ridership and/or walking use be? What is the existing or anticipated amount of users who will use your project? Describe method of attaining that number.

Currently the parking lot at Bagley Field is overflowing with automobiles at every athletic event. However it is extremely rare to see a bicycle because it is not safe to ride on Route 103 adjacent to Bagley Field where the speed limit is 50 mph. This trail will significantly change this current condition. Just this section offers compelling experiences at both ends that only get better as it extends in both directions. During practices and games hundreds of people would be directly exposed to the trail and appreciate the ancillary recreation activities for the parents and siblings of children participating in the organized sports activities at Bagley Field. We anticipate that the residents will readily appreciate this improvement and the word will get out quickly. Signage for trail head parking on Route 103 will call additional attention to the trail.

**IV. Financials:**

On a separate page, provide a budget for this project funding request. Provide all sources of revenue (actual and anticipated), and expenses reflecting all funding sources for the whole project.

Cost Estimate (Itemize as necessary in current \$)

- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Professional services
- \$ 8,500 Construction (Labor)
- \$ 6,500 Material
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Other (Please specify \_\_\_\_\_)
- \$ 15,000 Total Project Cost

What will be the specific use(s) of the funds from this grant?

The majority of funds we are requesting from the NHBPGP will go directly into the re-decking of the trestle bridge which is both a major feature of this trail section and presently a potential safety hazard. Once re-decked, we have our kick starter section of trail that can be used to sell the vision of the trail growing in both directions.

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Would you be able to continue your project if it were partially funded by this grant? If yes, explain your Plan B. If no, what is the minimum amount of funding you were able to accept?

When we initially applied we asked only for what we really needed to get this nascent effort off the ground. This particular section offers the highest impact because of the multigenerational crowds gathering at the fields. They will see “what could be” and push for the extensions with their money, effort and time. But we need this showcase section to sell the vision so we can engage more local support and involvement. The money needed for this project transforms a danger into an attraction, a “dumping” lane into a bicycle path and Nordic ski trail. It converts a 101’ long, unused, unsafe old bridge into a useful conduit across a river that kept the town divided with respect to pedestrian and recreational travel.

What other funds have been received or are in place/anticipated?

The Nancy Sibley Wilkins Trust has provided \$2000 towards the bridge re-decking. Another \$1,000 was donated. The Friends of the Concord-Lake Sunapee Rail Trail are just forming their group and will begin fund raising events shortly to support development of this trail section as well as future trail development. We expect to have the additional \$2,000 raised to go forward with this project soon after the holidays.

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**V. Supporting Materials:**

On a separate page, provide a map or plan of the project area and outline the project on it. Provide photos of the project if it will help the Review Committee understand the project better.

**VI. Other:**

How will support from this grant program be recognized?

Trailside signage, coverage in newspapers and the Annual Town Report, and online recognition of your generous gift and the gift of the Nancy Sibley Wilkins Trust as enabling the first project on this trail will earn your team a special place in the Warner community. Your financial support of this “kick-off” effort of transformative action will be acknowledged very publically.

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Any additional information that you would like to provide to the Review Committee.

Town residents and officials have recently conducted a “walk through” of the I-89 right-of-way with NHDOT and the Federal Highway Administration in anticipation of a future section of the trail that would link with this piece. Outside of Warner the City of Concord, towns of Hopkinton and Newbury and a group in Bradford are all working on sections of this trail within their boarders.

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Name of Organization for check and address if selected for grant.

Town of Warner. Attn; Jim Bingham, Town Administrator, PO Box 265, Warner, NH 03278

Form prepared by: Tim Blagden and Jim Bingham

Date: \_\_\_\_\_Nov, 15, 2013\_\_\_\_\_

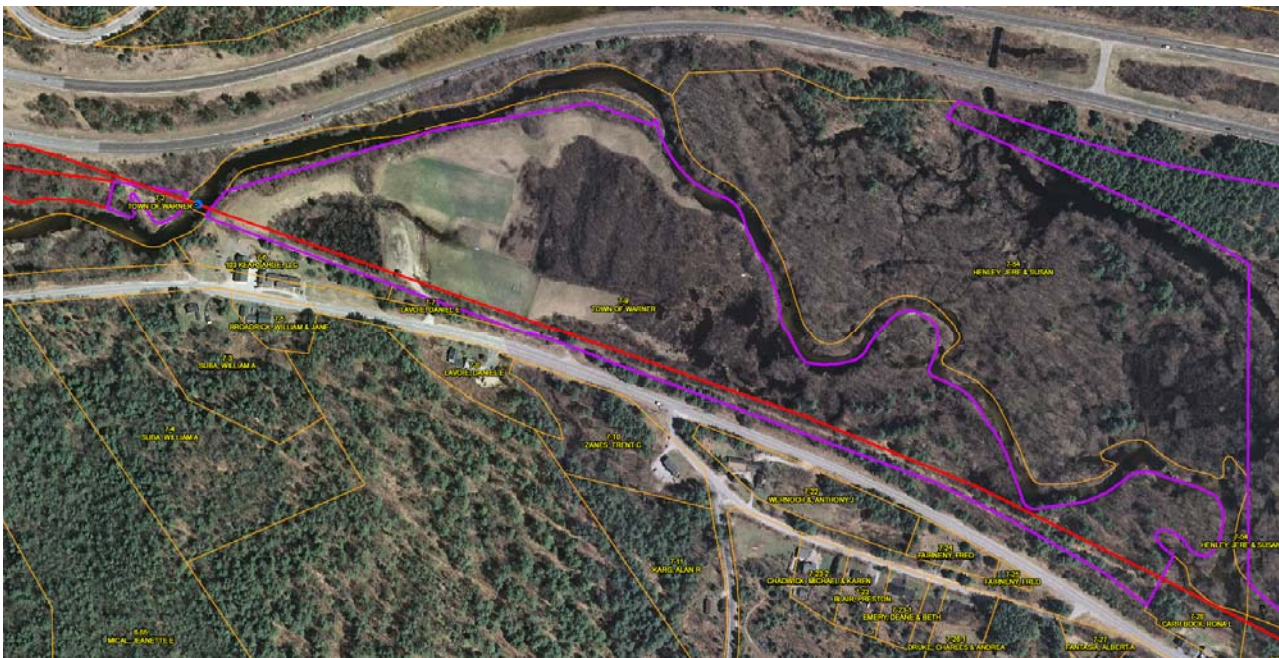
## Expenses

	Professional Services
\$8,500	Construction Labor
\$6,500	Materials
	Other
\$15,000	Total Project Cost

## Sources of Funds

\$2,000	Nancy Sibley Wilkins Trust
\$1,000	Donation
\$2,000	Fundraising
	NH Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant
\$10,000	Program
\$15,000	Total

Note: We are not including in this financial estimate the volunteer labor that will be used to clear brush along the trail and install signage. Nor are we including the labor, equipment and materials being donated by the town to enhance the trailhead parking and access control improvements.



The long red line is the approximate location of the rail grade. The blue dot is the location of the Trestle Bridge. The town owned parcels are located on both ends of the bridge and outlined in purple. Route 103 is just below the town parcels in this image. Speed limit 50. Interstate I-89 is shown at the top of the image. The Warner River is shown winding its way from left to right in the image.

Images of the Warner Rail Trail Segment at Bagley Field, Warner NH



**Above Left:** The trail looking towards the Trestle Bridge with Brayside Apts on the left. **Above Right:** The 101' trestle bridge over the Warner River with Selectman Clyde Carson and NHDOT Larry Keniston on the bridge. (Bob LaPree photo). **Left:** Trailhead parking just east of the soccer fields with Route 103 visible on the right. This area would be improved to hold 6+ cars, signage, and material to block vehicles from entering the trail. **Below:** Parking lot overflowing with cars. The trail crosses the driveway near the right edge of image and parallels the soccer field as it heads towards Hopkinton.

