



Nancy Sibley Wilkins Trust,
Town of Warner
PO Box 265
Warner NH 03278
Attn. Mary Whalen

September 2, 2014

Warner Rail Trail

We are pleased to report the initial section of rail trail at Bagley Field in Warner is now operational. The Nancy Sibley Wilkins Trust provided support during the earliest days of this project when it was only a grand vision for the town. The trustees should be very proud of their leadership role in this project which we hope transforms the town as it continues to grow.

The \$2,000 put in by the trust was matched by \$2,000 in private donations, \$1,000 committed by Warner Parks and Recreation and a \$5,000 grant from HEAL-NH. This enabled us to clear brush, restore the grade, bring in stone dust and have it compacted. Work on this section continues with two gates to install and signage to put up, and a bit more surface smoothing to take place, but it is operational now and worthy of your personal inspection.

The improvements done to date begin at the Bagley Field Driveway and head southeast to the end of the property. Substantial clearing was done along the entire length with particular attention paid to the section of the trail affording a view to the soccer fields. We wanted to create both a great viewing venue for spectators and make it obvious to people on the playing fields that a trail now exists worthy of exploration.



Figure 1 The trail profile is visible from the fields.

Great viewing from the trail.

The improved section is just over ½ mile in length with an additional more rustic 600' loop at the end which affords two more good views of the river. Getting this work done just in time for the beginning of the fall soccer season was important because this is the time of year when Bagley gets many visitors. Trail use and positive feedback has already started to come in.

Rona Bock said the trail was beautiful and her 6 year old granddaughter asked if she were in a tunnel because the raised canopy still covers the trail most of the way yet lets in sufficient light. A mother and young daughter age 5 or 6 walked the trail while a sibling was at soccer practice. They both enjoyed the walk and the mom was impressed her daughter



Figure 2 View from Bagley Driveway

had done the entire trip down and back in good spirits. We've already seen boys biking the trail to check it out.

Parks and Recreation has taken on the trail as a project and provided substantial volunteer labor to make it happen. They have become truly inspired and want to build more.



Figure 3 View from Trail head Parking area.

View of Warner River from the trail.

Support from the Selectmen and the town administrator has also been extremely strong. We would not have this section done without their support, expertise and a willingness to have DPW step in when we needed help with heavy equipment. In late August town administrator Jim Bingham informed us the town would put in an application for Transportation Alternative funds to develop a section of the trail from downtown to Exit 9. This is one of the two largest projects in the entire vision and shows real commitment from the town.



Figure 4. Rustic loop trail rejoining the main trail.

The Rustic Loop makes for a more pleasant turn around.

We cannot thank the trustees enough for your support on the initial phase of this project. Please head down and enjoy this initial section. We will plan a formal ribbon cutting ceremony for later in the fall (9/27 or 10/4). Is one date or the other better for the trustees to attend?

Best regards,

Tim Blagden, Warner Parks & Recreation