

March 3, 2015

**To:** Elizabeth Gorski, Chair, Board of Selectmen  
Michael Dempsey, Chairman, Conservation Commission  
Walter Sorenson, Chairman, Planning Board  
Robert P. Arakelian, Commissioner, Highway Department  
Thomas Cusick, Superintendent, Water & Sewer Department  
Mark McCabe, Tree Warden  
Chief Robert Lay, Fire Department  
Chief Robert Kirmelewicz, Police Department

**From:** Alex Johnson, Chairman, Open Space & Trails Committee

**Subject:** Groveland Community Trail  
MassDOT Project No. TBD

**CC:** Michael Trepanier, MassDOT Environmental Services Division  
John Hendrickson, FST Project Manager

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The Town of Groveland is currently working towards its goal of developing a safe, healthy, and scenic, recreation and pedestrian trail for all ages and abilities. In response to a Warrant article, passed at Town Meeting 2014, the Town of Groveland, through the Groveland Open Space and Trails Committee has hired Fay, Spofford and Thorndike (FST) to prepare 25% Design plans for the Groveland Community Trail (Trail), in accordance with Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) policies. The trail plans prepared for this phase of the project are meant to secure a spot for the Trail on the Bay State Greenway Priority 100, (MassDOT's list of high priority trails,) and obtain funding to construct the trail.

This project will explore converting the abandoned Georgetown Branch railroad tracks, from its intersection with Main Street to its intersection with King Street at the Georgetown border, into approximately two miles of shared-use path (Figure 1). A shared-use path is an off-road facility that is independently aligned and exclusive to non-motorized uses. It is anticipated that the Trail will consist of a 10-foot wide paved surface with 2- to 3-foot soft surface shoulders. The Trail is planned to both serve the local community and provide a regional connection to the planned Border to Boston Trail and Merrimack River Greenway.

Town Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds are being utilized to finance the trail design. The Town will need to negotiate a long term agreement with National Grid to use the corridor for shared-use trail development. In addition, the Town will need to work with MassDOT and the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission (MVPC) to secure the necessary construction funding from state and federal sources and ensure a regionally and locally agreeable design.

Interested town officials, citizens, and business owners will be invited to the Board of Selectmen's meeting on Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, and a Public Forum scheduled for Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. These events will provide opportunities to raise questions and concerns, and note opportunities and constraints, regarding the trail. I also respectfully request that you provide written comments and concerns now so that they can be considered and addressed during the early stages of design. Please submit your written comments to me prior to the March 23<sup>rd</sup> Board of Selectmen meeting, if

possible. If you have questions before then, don't hesitate to contact me at [grovelandcommunitytrail@gmail.com](mailto:grovelandcommunitytrail@gmail.com), or FST Project Manager, John Hendrickson at [jhendrickson@fstinc.com](mailto:jhendrickson@fstinc.com) or (781) 221-1133. Thanks for your cooperation.

Enclosure