

RESOLUTION

RES-2018-30

CITY OF LACONIA

In the Year of Our Lord two thousand and eighteen,

BE IT RESOLVED, WHEREAS, the state-owned Concord to Lincoln RR corridor was built to bring tourists and spur economic development in the Lakes Region and beyond (circa 1850), and

WHEREAS, a portion of this 50-mile corridor is now used, under a lease agreement with the state, for certain train operations with a degree of benefit to the surrounding communities, and

WHEREAS, there is an identified regional trail project from Weirs Beach to Franklin that could have the potential to yield significantly more economic and recreational benefits to the abutting communities, the region and the state of NH by better utilizing this publicly-owned space, and

WHEREAS, the building of the remaining 10 miles of trail project IN PLACE of rail would substantially reduce cost, alleviate abutter concerns, and provide an enhanced trail for users, and

WHEREAS, the state-owned corridor would be maintained in perpetuity for NH DOT with the understanding that rail would be reinstalled at a future date if it was determined that rail was a better and higher use.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Laconia City Council endorses a proposal for the City to commission professional research, to be paid for by the WOW Trail Committee, to study the pros and cons of continuing to build this regional recreation trail NEXT TO the existing railroad tracks or IN PLACE OF the railroad tracks.

Questions the study should address will include:

- How much would it cost to complete the entire trail project (+/- 10 miles) by building the path **alongside** the railroad tracks?
- How much would it cost to complete the entire trail project (+/- 10 miles) by **replacing** the tracks with the trail?
- What is the economic impact to the region and the state of NH based on the current use of the rail system?
- What would the economic impact to the region and the state of NH be with a completed trail system from Weirs Beach to Franklin in place of a rail system?
- What recreation, transportation and health benefits might be realized from a completed rail trail from Weirs Beach to Franklin?
- How would a completed trail system, in place of rail, impact the snowmobile community?
- Is it feasible for the current lessee, Plymouth & Lincoln Railroad, to continue to operate the tourist trains and maintenance business with an interrupted line?
- If the current rail line was interrupted from Weirs Beach to Northfield to construct a trail, what impact would this have on tourism and future commercial rail uses?

This Resolution shall take effect upon its passage.

Edward Engler, Mayor

Passed and approved this ____ day of August, 2018

Cheryl Hebert, City Clerk