

Norton officials back extended rail-trail plan

BY PAIGE ALLEN SUN CHRONICLE STAFF | Posted: Sunday, September 8, 2013 1:12 am

NORTON - Selectmen have agreed to move ahead with forming an Alternative Transportation Committee, looking ahead to plans for extending a bike path into town.

An informal committee was formed to gauge what kind of interest and support there was for extending the World War II Memorial trail in Mansfield into Norton. The group has spent the last few months coming up with basic information and getting the word out about the bike and equestrian path extension, to be known as the Norton Rail-Trail.

They were given the go-ahead Thursday night to become the Alternative Transportation Committee, an official town committee.

“We have a Facebook page that has around 400 ‘Likes’, we started a website and we have around 300 people signed up on our mailing list to receive information,” informal committee co-Chairwoman Sandra Ollerhead said.

Ollerhead was joined by co-Chairwoman Karen Kenter-Potty at the meeting to request the informal committee become an official town committee so that they can apply for grants.

“We’ve gotten support from people who are excited to see the project go through and at this point we are ready to apply for grants,” Ollerhead said.

Kenter-Potty said they have been working closely with town officials in addition to gathering community support.

“We’ve received support not only from community members but also from town officials. We’ve contacted the police, fire and highway departments and the conservation commission,” Kenter-Potty said. “We are ready to apply for grants and in order to do that you need to be a committee.”

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