



Volunteers ready to work on Norton bike path

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Wicked Local Norton

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Norton — Karen Kenter-Potty has lived in Norton for 30 years. During that time she has frequented the old railroad trails that run through her backyard. From riding her horses to walking her dogs, she and her family have made the most

Kenter-Potty serves as chairman for the newly formed Norton Rail-Trail and said she is all for the proposed bike path project.

“We are hoping for a lot of support and interest as we proceed,” she said.

The Norton Rail-Trail is a proposed extension of the WWI Trail through the town of Norton. The trail would consist of a 10- to 12-five-foot-wide unpaved equestrian trail, similar to the Mansfield Trail. Kenter-Potty said.

“The trail would follow the Mansfield sewer right-of-way where the right of way has either wetland issues or gaps,” she said.

While Kenter-Potty already uses the trails in their current form, she said they would be beneficial and open up the possibilities for usage.

“It would make it more pleasant to use when conditions are right for biking along with walking the trail,” she said. She would like to include

Adam Recchia of Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development is working with the town to get the project up and running.

Ten years ago, when Mansfield installed its bike path, Norton Rail-Trail path extend into town.

The idea to revisit the bike path came about when residents wanted to see if the town would reconsider.

Selectman Robert Kimball said a decade ago he was against the path but those have been erased with the new proposal.

“There is no question we should have something like this,” she said.

The town is reaching out to the state to help fund the project until 2016, selectmen said.

As the details get worked out, Kenter-Potty said the trail encourages people to get educated about the project.

“A multi-use recreational trail would be something almost everyone could use,” she said. “If you can move, you could use the trail.”

She said the path will be available for people of all ages to use, whether by wheelchair, or ride a horse.

“The trail could become a focal point for the Norton community, bringing together a wide range of people,” Kenter-Potty said.

For more information, visit <https://sites.google.com/site/nortonrailtrail/> “like” the Facebook page “Norton Rail-Trail” or email nortonrailtrail@yahoo.com.

Kenter-Potty said the committee is also in the process of creating an email list for those unable to attend meetings but who still want to be involved.

“We invite anyone interested in helping out to contact us or come to the meetings,” she said.

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