

JOHNSON RAIL TRAIL COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
JOHNSON MUNICIPAL BUILDING
THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 2026

Present:

Committee Members: Jan Gearhart, Daniel Langevin, Doug Molde, Kim Dunkley, Mary Lou Kopas (remote), BJ Putvain (remote)

Absent: Lynda Hill, Adrian Schmidt

Note: All votes taken are unanimous unless otherwise noted.

1. *Call Meeting to Order*

Doug called the meeting to order at 6:16.

2. *Changes or Additions to Agenda*

Mary Lou added discussion of bike racks. Doug added a report on LCPC regional rail trail committee items. Jan said she wants to try to get the town to do some repairs at the Welcome Center – fixing the water faucet and garbage can docks and moving the LVRT sign nearer to the trail. She will take that up with John Sutherland. Doug said moving the sign is something to talk to Jackie Cassino about. Jackie agreed previously to move it. Jan said she will contact Jackie about the sign and will talk to John about the faucet and the garbage cans.

3. *Consider Approving Minutes of July 16, 2026*

Not everyone had reviewed the minutes so approval was postponed until the next meeting.

4. *Plan for Completing Installation of the Regional LVRT Map on the Kiosk at the Welcome Center*

Jan said she texted Brian Currier about 5 days ago and asked if there was any chance he could get the work done before this meeting. He said he would try, but she went by today and it was not done. He doesn't have the map; he is just making a box for it. (BJ joined the meeting at 6:20.)

5. *Report on Survey and Responses*

Dan showed charts of survey questions and responses. He said we have 54 responses now. He feels if had around 200 that might be a good number to start using them for planning and grant applications.

Dan said there are questions about whether people went to businesses and how much they spent. There are a lot of different ways to interpret the data, depending on your perspective.

Doug asked Dan to let whoever is setting up the agenda know when he feels he has a large enough number of responses for accurate results.

Dan said he touched base with some people he knows about getting a recommendation for a town level project system for monitoring and tracking grant opportunities.

6. *Relocating from Paul Warden's the Parts for the Second Kiosk*

Doug said Paul Warden would like to relocate the kiosk that is in storage at his barn. Jan said we don't know where it is going to go. It will be put somewhere on town property. She would like to ask the town to put it in their garage until we determine where we want it. BJ said we should ask them if they can put it in the cold storage building. There should be room there, but there won't be room in the town garage.

7. *Design Village Map with List of Services for Placement on Back Side of New Kiosk*

Jan said she has pictures of maps other towns have created. Our committee has to decide what we want our village map to look like. Morrisville has a kiosk with a map of the village and a list of services. They don't have correlated letters or numbers on the map showing where those services are.

Jeffersonville has the same thing. They also have village amenities on their kiosk. Vergennes has a map of the village and a list of businesses, with no correlated numbers or letters to show where they are located on the map.

Mary Lou said she likes the idea of listing services on the map with numbers, but if we do that we would have to reprint and replace the map every 2 or 3 years. How much does that cost? Jan said she doesn't think it costs that much. We will have to go through the job of changing it, but to get the map printed she thinks only costs about \$150. Doug said the 4x6 ft. map on the trailhead building that Charles Flaum did cost \$160 for printing and backing. Mary Lou said she prefers changing the map every 2 or 3 years to having pins in the map that we can change.

Jan suggested we could have a list of businesses to the side of the map, in the location where Charles put a list of events. Doug said if we put a list of businesses alongside the map, then we need to decide what to put on the back side of the kiosk. The front side is the rail trail map the state made. Jan suggested there could be local notices. Doug suggested photos.

Doug suggested that we type up a list of businesses and give it to John and then to Charles to have the same people print it who printed the display for the Welcome Center.

Kim said when she is biking or walking, pictures catch her attention. She would love to see historic pictures with a blurb about where they are. Jan agreed having pictures on the back of the kiosk would be great. Mary Lou said she thinks there should also be information.

Doug said he thinks we should gather pictures and review them. Someone should look at the amount of space available and consider sizing, etc. Kim suggested bringing pictures to a meeting so the committee can decide which ones to use. Dan suggested thinking about how people use the rail trail and using pictures that are aligned with those uses.

Doug said his suggestion is to have a list of businesses to the left of the local map on the Welcome Center and to have pictures on the back of the kiosk with the rail trail map.

Jan suggested that everyone try to gather color photos and write a description for each one. She thinks the minimum size should be 8x10 inches.

The committee will try to meet in September if enough people are available. If not, the committee can review pictures in October.

8. *Thoughts and Ranking of Next Projects and/or Grant Applications*

Doug suggested deferring this to a future meeting and the committee agreed.

9. *Moving Picnic Table from Former Library Site to Ted Alexander Welcome Center*

Doug said there is a picnic table on the old library site and he was told that we can bring it to the Welcome Center and put it on the trail side of the building. We should organize a work party for that. BJ offered the use of his pickup. BJ and Jan volunteered to help. Jan and Kim said their husbands may be able to help. It was agreed to meet at 4:00 on Sunday to move the table.

10. *RERC at Vermont State University Johnson Campus, August 27 and 28*

Doug said people can sign up for the RERC meetings online. He is on the RERC steering committee. A high powered group is coming to town. Meetings will be in the performance space at the college. There will be a tour to show them Johnson. It is not necessary to register, but people who do will get more information.

11. Discussion on Bike Racks

Mary Lou said there was feedback that the bike rack by the Cold Spring looks like it was just plopped down. She responded that the village would be making a platform for it. It was suggested that the benches at the Cold Spring could be moved because they are not used and the bike rack could be put there. She thinks she disagrees with that idea. It was suggested that the bike rack by the general store is not visible enough and that maybe we need a bike rack by Marsala Salsa. Mike Mignone is going to put in a picnic area. That is why he wanted the bike rack by his store where it is. We should probably post on Front Porch Forum and let people know what is going on with the bike racks.

Kim said Adrienne Parker said today that she and Kyle Nuse were going to see where the pad for the bike rack by the Cold Spring would be and put flags there. She suggested checking with Nate Brigham because the bike rack has to be in a certain place to allow for plowing.

12. LCPC Rail Trail Committee Meeting Update

Doug said Victoria Hellwig is working on organizing a meeting of people from LCPC, VTrans, the road crew, and the rail trail committee, as well as John Sutherland, to consider signs for Railroad Street and the Railroad Street crossing of the rail trail. He told them he would not be available and Mary Lou should be the committee contact. Discover Johnson is going to put another display like the one on the Welcome Center where the pink map is now. Doug suggested that Mary Lou might want to check with the committee about dates for the meeting once some possible dates are discussed.

Doug said we failed to get the Local Motion grant.

Doug said at the last LCPC rail trail committee meeting the committee voted not to participate in the state's pause places study because it didn't seem worthwhile. The state is now paying for the whole study with no local match so he feels we should let them do it.

13. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:22.

Minutes submitted by Donna Griffiths