

**Board of Selectmen
Special Agenda
Municipal Center Resource Room
Monday December 20, 2021**

7:00 pm

- Call to Order
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Chairman's Announcements

1. Review & Discuss Letter to DCR regarding Southern New England Trunkline Trail Project – Possible Vote(s)
2. Adjournment

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Note: Times are estimates unless denoted as a Hearing.

The Town of Douglas is an equal opportunity provider, and employer.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SPECIAL AGENDA MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY DECEMBER 20, 2021

Attendance: Chair Kevin Morse, Vice-Chair David Cortese, Timothy Bonin, Michael Fitzpatrick, Hal Davis (remote), Matthew Wojcik, and Lisa Freeman.

(0:03) Chair Kevin Morse calls meeting to order at 7:00 PM

(0:05) Pledge of Allegiance

(0:31) Chairman's Announcements: NONE

(0:45) Motion to open discussion and review the drafted letter to DCR regarding Southern New England Trunkline Trail Project – Possible Votes.

Kevin Morse reads the letter the board requested TA Wojcik write to DCR about the proposed project of paving the trunkline trail, then asks the board for input. The board would like to hear from the public. First to speak at the meeting is Fred Fontaine (Charles Street) and would like to know if there is a cost to the taxpayers for this project. TA Wojcik responded with what he knows about the funding of the project, and stated it is being funded by a bond that was approved by the taxpayers across the Commonwealth on the ballot for 8 million to pave 6 miles. Jacob Schultzberg (2 Stonehill Drive) requested that the board make the letter written to DCR null and void. A resident from NW Main St. spoke about her concerns and why she is opposed to the project. Steve Sanders (29 Maple Street) stated that he bought his property a year ago because of the trails, and would like to know if there was an environmental study done. Peggy Gallagher (Glen Street) a member of the Bay State Trail Riders Association stated that the association worked to convince the state to purchase the abandoned railroad bed, not to see it paved but to keep it natural so that everyone can use it. She also stated that it was designated as a national recreational trail in 1994 in perpetuity, and she is against the paving project. Carol Gogolinski (Island Road) would like to see the trail paved so that people without mountain bikes and children with training wheels could use the trail. Kathy Richards (Marilyn Drive) is opposed to the paving project. John Furno (1 Stonehill Drive) would like to see a compromise for the paving with just a portion of it paved. Suzanne Sanders (28 Maple Street) stated her opposition to the paving project. Keri Jackman (71 Webster Street) stated her opposition and commented about how hot the pavement gets in the summer for people and animals. Julia Taddei (88 Franklin Street) stated she was opposed to the project and commented on the winter weather and the safety issues on the pavement with ice and snow. Bonnie LePage (39 Maple Street) is opposed to the project. Bruce Rioux (11 Churchill Road) would like to see improvements to the trail but not pavement. Bill Rossi (41 Oak Street) joined the meeting remotely and he is opposed to the paving of the trail. Shirley Moczynski (60 Oak Street) would like to see the trail kept natural. Jacob Schultzberg (2 Stonehill Drive) read a letter he wrote to the Board stating his approval of the project for many reasons. A few being that it would deter ATV users and other motorized vehicles from using the trail. It would also allow access to a wider amount of people, specifically the handicapped. He would also like to see maintenance and upkeep added to the project if it isn't paved. Fred Fontaine (Charles Street) asked the Board who and where are the comments and questions made by the public from tonight's meeting going to go, and what residents can do to oppose the project.

(52:20) Tim Bonin stated he believes the first step to stopping the project is getting the Board of Selectmen's signatures on the letter from TA Wojcik read at tonight's meeting. Mr. Bonin is opposed to the project as well. Mr. Cortese stated maybe finding out if there is another surface besides pavement that could meet everyone's needs. TA Wojcik suggested moving the section of the letter that addressed a stabilized aggregate surface instead of pavement be moved to the beginning of the letter so that it will not be overlooked. Mr. Davis suggests maintenance and winter issues to the pavement. Mr. Fitzpatrick suggests adding upkeep and maintenance if they do end up paving the trail. Fred Fontaine (Charles Street) would like to know if the Board would send the letter to our State Senators, Representatives, and even the Governor's Office, and not just to the DCR.

(1:09:18) Motion to endorse TA Wojcik's letter as amended made by Tim Bonin, seconded by Mike Fitzpatrick. Roll call vote: Mike Fitzpatrick-aye, Tim Bonin-aye, Kevin Morse-aye, David Cortese-aye, and Hal Davis-aye.

(1:10:29) Motion to adjourn made by Kevin Morse, seconded by Tim Bonin. Roll call vote: Mike Fitzpatrick-aye, Tim Bonin-aye, Kevin Morse-aye, David Cortese-aye, Hal Davis-aye.

Respectfully Submitted,


Stephenie Gosselin
Recording Secretary