

## Memorandum

**To:** Mayor and Council  
**From:** Tom Baker, Town Administrator  
**Date:** May 20, 2014  
**Re:** Funding for High Trail

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**Purpose:** The purpose of this item is ask Council for direction on the funding for a “High Trail” between the Mall area and the residential portion of Main Street.

**Background and Discussion:** As Council knows, Bruce Leland, Bob Gordon, Harry Garner (Lions), David Hamilton and Eileen Wysocki (RFOV) and Town Staff walked the potential trail alignment that Patrick Stuckey spoke of during Council’s 2013 Retreat. The consensus of the people experienced in trail building is that this is a very doable project.

RFOV is willing to put this project on their schedule for spring 2015 or fall 2014 (mid to late Sept). RFOV is able to recruit trail builders, prep the alignment, conduct on-site design, provide construction guidance (rock wall construction and drainage are two of the important considerations), provide all needed construction equipment...

While RFOV uses volunteers, they need funding to keep the organization viable. In 2012 the Town provided \$1,387 to RFOV, in 2013 the Town provided \$500 and in 2014 the Town provided \$250. Over recent years RFOV has built or improved trails in New Castle – built the Colorow Trail (3year project), Rollie Gordon Trail extension, and Mt. Maderis Trail work.

**Alternatives:** This project is on the Town’s Strategic Plan.

- A. Provide a \$3K donation to RFOV in 2014 and construct the trail in the fall of 2014.
- B. Provide a \$3k donation to RFOV in the 2015 budget and construct the trail in the spring of 2015.
- C. Construct the trail without RFOV assistance.
- D. Do nothing.

**Recommendation:** Staff recommends alternative A. This can be viewed as an economic development project and Council has clearly stated that we wish to build our economy through taking advantage of our local resources and attractions. We have come to believe that many small projects will serve us better than one large project. The High Trail is the ideas project for our economic development ethic. Additionally, partnering with RFOV will bring out of town volunteers to New Castle and “expose” those volunteers to our charming town and people.

In terms of funding, staff finds that \$3k is an amount that we can absorb in the various General Fund departments.