



CITY OF DANBURY

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Town of New Fairfield

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New Fairfield, Connecticut 06812

Jean Green
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MEETING NOTICE

Who: Margerie Reservoir Trail Advisory Committee

When: **6:30PM – SPECIAL TIME**
Tuesday, August 27, 2024

Where: **Danbury City Hall**
155 Deer Hill Avenue, Danbury, CT

Purpose: Margerie Reservoir Trail Advisory Committee
Meeting #10

**Original agenda Item on file with the Danbury Legislative Assistant & with the Town of New Fairfield*

Committee Members & Representatives:

Holly Robinson, City Council Member, City of Danbury
Antonio Iadarola, City Engineer & Public Works Director, City of Danbury
& Town Engineer, New Fairfield
David Day, Public Utilities Superintendent, City of Danbury
Corporation Counsel Representative, City of Danbury
Ken Gucker, Alternate, Danbury
Jeff Main, Conservation & Inland Wetland Commission, New Fairfield
Peter Hearn, New Fairfield
Ann Marie Mellas, Alternate, New Fairfield

Posted Notices: Town Clerk, City of Danbury & New Fairfield
Information Board, City of Danbury
City Website, City of Danbury & New Fairfield

Received by email on 08/08/2024 @ 11:44 a.m.
by Chrystie M. Bontempo, Asst. Town Clerk, New Fairfield

Margerie Trail Advisory Committee (Meeting #10)

AGENDA

When: **6:30 PM** – Tuesday, August 27, 2024

Where: **Danbury City Hall**
155 Deer Hill Avenue, Danbury CT

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approve Meeting Minutes from June 25, 2024
4. Public Speaking
5. Update regarding Surveyor and Wetlands Specialist
6. Update regarding Full Design Services RFP submission (Barton & Loguidice, LLC)
7. Set Date for next Meeting
8. Adjournment

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Margerie Reservoir Trail Advisory Committee
June 25, 2024 - 6PM

1. Chair Holly Robinson called the meeting to order at 6:05p.m. on Tuesday, June 25, 2024.

Present were Committee Members Antonio Iadarola, Public Works Director & City Engineer, City of Danbury & Town Engineer, New Fairfield; David Day, Public Utilities Superintendent, City of Danbury; Peter Hearn, New Fairfield; Jeff Main, CLA and Parks, New Fairfield; Ken Gucker, Alternate, Danbury; and Joseph Mortelliti, Outside Counsel, City of Danbury. Absent: Ann Marie Mellas, Alternate, New Fairfield.

Present from the public were multiple individuals.

2. Minutes

A motion was made by Member Main, and was seconded by Member Day, to accept the meeting minutes from the last meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

*correction to the minutes is identified during public speaking.

3. Public Speaking

Chair Robinson provided an overview of project and the status. She noted the RFP applicants being reviewed tonight is for review and design, not for actual construction. She did note that all concerns that have been presented to the committee have been provided to the applicants for consideration.

Dawn Greenstein, New Fairfield – Discussed the concerns of the 108 Lakewood residents including; increased security and police patrol needs, bald eagle nesting & wildlife displacement, privacy concerns, and water contamination.

(Inaudible) – New Fairfield - Asked about lighting at night.

(Inaudible) – New Fairfield - Asked about water safety.

Jennifer Pappas – New Fairfield – *Asked that the minutes be amended to reflect that the FOI was made with the Town of New Fairfield, not New Milford.

Jennifer asked about how many times the trail has been proposed and noted the need to acknowledge why it was rejected in the past. She noted security concerns, water protection, asked about the cost of all the RFPs for a project that might not come to fruition. She asked about parking, and a final cost.

Christina McCartney – New Fairfield – Expressed her support of the trail and the need to discuss and address concerns by the residents.

Marty Gucker – New Fairfield – Asked about the tax impact on New Fairfield residents. He expressed his support for the trail.

Member Iadarola confirmed that the property is owned by Danbury and that New Fairfield collects taxes from Danbury.

Kelly Linquist - New Fairfield – Spoke on her concerns about the eagle nests and how they will be affected by all phases of the project.

Tina Fox – New Fairfield – Discussed the crime and blight taking place in the area already and is concerned for an increase due to the trail. She also expressed concern with safety and privacy.

Dika Mikades – New Fairfield – Explained her concerns with increased crime and noise and its affect on the elderly residents.

Diane Gucker – New Fairfield – Spoke in favor of the trail due to her experience with trails throughout the country. She noted that most people who use trails are not noisy and do not litter.

Chair Robinson explained that M&J Engineering, PC was not able to make the meeting to present and that the committee would move ahead on the agenda before the first presentation.

5. Update: Surveyor and Wetlands Specialist

Member Iadarola noted that surveying is almost complete. The consultant is waiting on the wetlands specialist to finalize delineation and then they will add them to the map.

Alt. Member Gucker asked how much of the area is being surveyed? Member Iadarola confirmed that the scope of work included identification of any wetlands and sensitive areas on the East side of the reservoir. He added that the City of Danbury regularly monitor and maintain the area by the fence.

6. Next Meeting Date

Chair Robinson asked that the next meeting be on July 30th and will take place in Danbury at 6pm. Alt. Member Gucker asked about the time requirements for the RFPs, Chair Robinson noted that if there is no action to be taken by July 30th, then the July meeting can be moved.

A motion was made by Member Main, 2nd by Member Iadarola, to set the next meeting date for July 30th. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Member Iadarola, 2nd by Member Day, to go into a brief recess pending the arrival of the presenter. Motion carried unanimously. The committee went into recess at 6:35pm.

A motion was made by Member Iadarola, 2nd by Member Hearn, to reconvene the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting reconvened at 7:07pm.

4. RFP (Full Design Services) Presentations & Q&A:

Barton & Loguidice, LLC – Contractors (Mark, Kevin & Oscar) provided an overview of their experiences and discussed the process and similar projects they have worked on. They identified key areas that they will be addressing, including; environmental issues, access to information for public outreach, placement of the trail, safety and crime prevention, disruption from traffic and construction, emergency access, and fencing near the reservoir.

Chair Robinson asked whether these specific communities (Danbury & New Fairfield) will be factored in to the design of the trail. Contractors explained that they would take into consideration specific concerns and needs, and provided examples of how they have worked with local law enforcement for other projects and used what they learned in the design. Chair Robinson asked if existing recreational opportunities will be used to help with a successful design?

Member Hearn asked about the scope of their survey. Kevin stated that there would be specific areas that would be reviewed in greater detail including wildlife habitats. Member Hearn asked about litigation in other projects;

Mark discussed the need for good communication and to use contractors that have good references and are willing to answer questions. Kevin noted the need for regular oversight.

Alt. Member Gucker asked about a buffer between the roadway and the reservoir, he noted the need to keep the public informed and asked for an electronic copy of their presentation; Kevin discussed the options for public input throughout the process, and Mark spoke on their work with the EPA and many municipalities to address road runoff into waterways and noted that they would provide options to help.

Member Day asked the representatives what they anticipate as the biggest challenge with the project; Kevin noted the time that it takes to provide and receive complete public comment and engagement; Mark mentioned the fence and finding the best way to keep the reservoir water safe.

A motion was made by Member Hearn, 2nd by Member Iadarola, to enter into Executive Session.

The Committee entered into Executive Session at 8:21pm.

The Committee returned from Executive Session at 8:22pm.

The Committee discussed whether Executive Session needed to be added to the agenda.

A motion was made by Member Main, 2nd by Member Iadarola, to add Executive Session to the agenda.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Executive Session

A motion was made by Member Main, 2nd by Member Hearn, to enter into Executive Session.

The Committee entered into Executive Session at 8:27pm.

The Committee reconvened at 8:29pm.

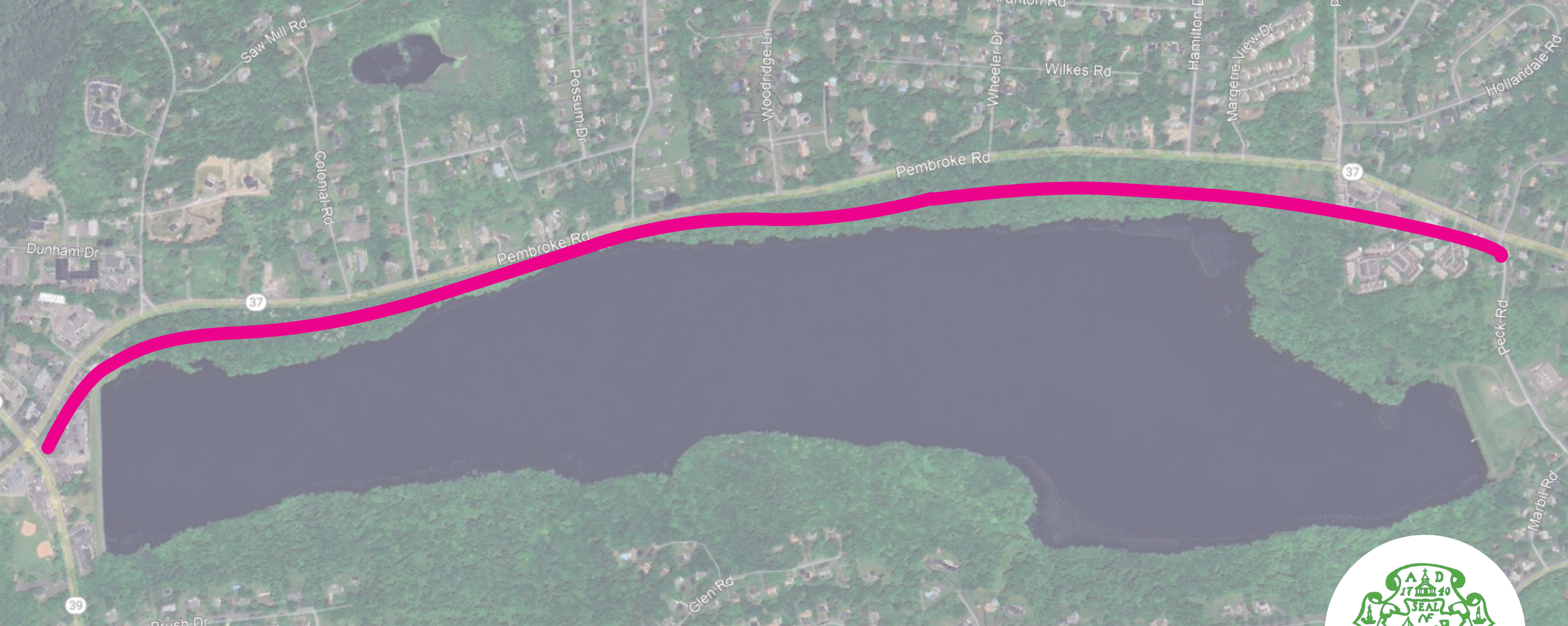
A motion was made by Member Main, 2nd by Member Day, to recommend Barton and Loguidice (B&L) as the consultants for the comprehensive design phase of the trail. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Adjournment

A motion was made by Member Iadarola, and seconded by Member Hearn, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted; Holly Robinson, Chair
Antonio Iadarola, David Day, Peter Hearn, Jeff Main

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Town of New Fairfield • Interview for

Margerie Reservoir Trail

Project No. 2022-241 / Bid No. 2023-24S002

June 25, 2024

PREPARED BY
Barton & Loguidice

Barton & Loguidice

The Experience to **Listen**.
The Power to **Solve**.

At B&L, we leverage the diverse experience of our professionals to meet the unique requirements of each project and to deliver top-tier solutions to our clients.

New Fairfield's Team

Our project leadership has been hand-selected for the Town of New Fairfield. They present decades of experience providing similar services to clients throughout Connecticut and the Northeast.



Mark Zessin, P.E.
Senior Vice President

40 years of experience

Role: Principal in Charge

- Town Center Multi-Use Trail (Andover)
- Farmington River Rail Trail Extension (Canton)
- Mad River Dam Trail (Winchester)



Oscar Villavicencio, PLA
Senior Managing
Landscape Architect

29 years of experience

Role: Project Manager

- Town Center Multi-Use Trail (Andover)
- Yorktown Trail Master Plan (Yorktown, NY)
- Main Street Streetscape Design (Poughkeepsie, NY)



Kevin Grindle, ASLA, PLA
Associate

24 years of experience

Role: Quality Assurance and Quality Control

- Routing Study and Design (New Hartford)
- Farmington River Rail Trail Extension (Canton)
- Naugatuck River Greenway (Torrington)

Wildlife Concerns

B&L's experience with Sensitive Wildlife Projects

LOOP THE LAKE TRAIL SOUTHEAST EXTENSION

Murphy's Island Trail, Onondaga County, New York

Bald Eagle Overwintering Roost:

- Trail construction intersected with a critical bald eagle overwintering roost.
- Conducted an extensive tree evaluation to avoid or minimize impact on main roosts.
- Developed a Net Conservation Benefit Plan to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts:
- Installed interpretative panels highlighting the bald eagle's recovery.
- Implemented seasonal trail closures during winter months to prevent disturbances.



PROJECT SENECA WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

Watkins Glen, Schuyler County, New York

Proximity to Active Bald Eagle Nest:

- The new WWTP was adjacent to an area with a nesting eagle pair, within a federally regulated 660-foot buffer.
- Submitted a Net Conservation Benefit Plan, including:
 1. Payment to a third party for land purchase to protect another eagle nest.
 2. Installed camouflaged fencing to obscure construction site from the nest.
 3. Obtained Incidental Take Permit from the US Fish and Wildlife Service due to anticipated disruption.
 4. Utilized an on-site eagle monitor during construction.





Public Concerns

B&L's outreach plan will incorporate information deemed essential by the Committee in order to foster public awareness.

• Public Events •

B&L has found that engaging with the community at their own events can be highly effective for sharing information and gathering feedback from local residents. In New Fairfield, these events could include:

- New Fairfield Summer Concert Series
- New Fairfield Farmer's Market
- New Fairfield Strawberry Festival
- Trails Day Hike
- Parades
- Outdoor Movie Nights
- Sip & Stroll
- Clothing Drive Fundraiser
- Other Fundraisers
- Friends of New Fairfield Library Events



• Social Pinpoint •

Enhances Public Engagement

Encourages a higher level of public participation by providing a convenient and user-friendly platform where community members can share their ideas, feedback, and opinions on various initiatives and projects.

Democratizes Decision-Making

Enables more democratic decision-making, ensuring that various community interests and needs are represented.



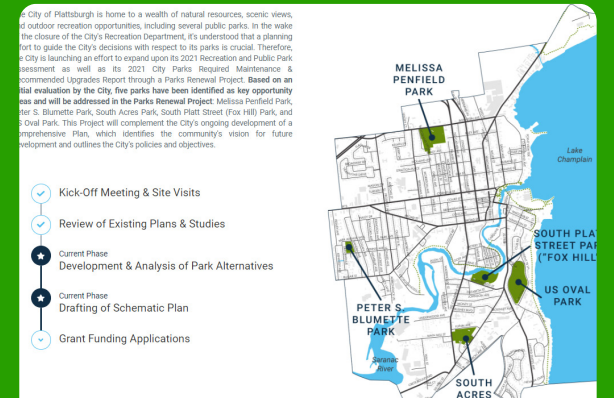
• Focus Groups •

Insights and Understanding

Focused and personalized setting offers more opportunities to vocalize thoughts and insights towards community needs.

Sense of Ownership

By involving local residents in focus groups, we can foster a sense of community engagement and ownership, which can lead to stronger support for, and utilization of, the recreational area.



• Websites •

Centralized Information Hub

Project-specific websites serve as a centralized source of information, providing the public with easy access to project updates, timelines, plans, and progress reports.

Interactive Engagement

Allows for real-time communication between the project team and the public, encourages participation, and demonstrates that the project team values and considers public input.

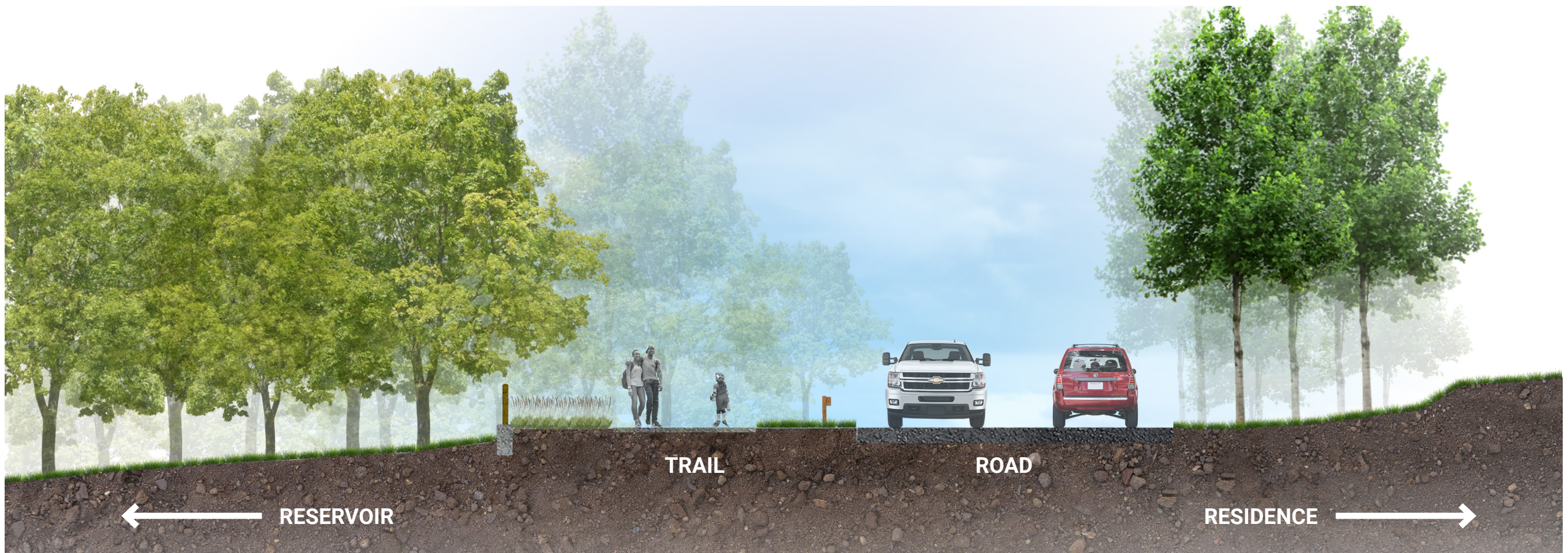
Landowner Concerns



Pembroke Road - Existing Conditions



Pembroke Road - Trail Rendering with Guardrails



CROSS SECTION AT ROUTE 37

Safety Concerns

B&L takes safety **seriously**.

Recreational trails are not only safe, but also contribute positively to community safety and cohesion, providing numerous social, economic, and health benefits.

Safety on Recreational Trails

Well-Designed Infrastructure:

- Clear signage and well-maintained paths enhance user safety.
- Adequate lighting and visibility reduce opportunities for criminal activities.

Community Engagement:

- Trails foster a sense of community ownership and stewardship.
- Increased foot traffic from users discourages illicit activities.

Evidence Against Crime Increase

Studies and Statistics:

- Research consistently shows that recreational trails **do not** increase crime rates.
- Trails often see a **reduction in crime** due to higher visibility and usage.

Crime Prevention Strategies

Natural Surveillance:

- Trails are designed with open sightlines to improve visibility.
- Placement near residential areas increases natural surveillance by residents.

Law Enforcement and Patrol:

- Regular patrols by law enforcement enhance security.
- Community watch programs can involve trail users nearby residents.

Benefits to the Community

Promotes Healthy Lifestyles:

- Encourages outdoor activities and physical exercise.
- Contributes to overall community well-being and cohesiveness.

Economic and Social Benefits:

- Trails can boost local economies through increased tourism and property values.
- Serve as a gathering space for community events and activities.

Right of Way Concerns



B&L'S SUPERVISORY STRATEGIES

Comprehensive Planning:

- Detailed project schedules to identify and mitigate potential disruptions.
- Coordination with local authorities to align construction activities around peak traffic hours.

Traffic Management Plans:

- Detours and temporary traffic signals to maintain flow.
- Clear signage and communication to inform drivers of changes and alternative routes.

Minimized Road Closures:

- Phased construction approach.
- Night and off-peak hour work to reduce daytime disruptions.

COMMUNICATION AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Public Information Campaigns:

- Ongoing updates to residents and businesses about construction timelines and impacts.
- Use of social media, websites, and local news outlets for real-time information.

Stakeholder Coordination:

- Meetings with local businesses, schools, and emergency services to address concerns.
- Dedicated liaison to manage stakeholder queries and feedback.

ON-SITE SUPERVISION AND FLEXIBILITY

Experienced Supervision Team:

- On-site oversight to ensure project adherence and prompt resolution.
- Real-time adjustments based on traffic patterns and unexpected challenges.

Use of Technology:

- Traffic monitoring systems to assess and respond to congestion in real-time.
- Construction management software to track progress and schedule adjustments.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND NOISE MITIGATION

Noise Control Measures:

- Use of noise barriers and low-noise machinery to minimize sound pollution.
- Scheduling noisy operations during times least disruptive to the community.

Environmental Protections:

- Dust control measures and proper waste disposal to reduce environmental impact.
- Ensure compliance with pertinent environmental regulations.

Scenic Value



Ensuring User Safety



Tree Assessment:

- Conduct thorough inspections to identify dead and hazardous trees.
- Evaluate tree stability and potential risks.

Prioritizing Hazard Mitigation:

- Immediate removal of trees posing direct threats to trail users.
- Regular monitoring and maintenance to address emerging hazards.

Enhancing Scenic Value



Selective Tree Removal:

- Remove dead trees that detract from the trail's aesthetic appeal.
- Preserve trees that contribute to the natural landscape and habitat diversity.

(If Requested) Planting Trees:

- Plant native species to replace removed trees
- Mix of tree types to create a visually appealing and resilient environment.

Environmental Considerations



Sustainable Practices:

- Implement eco-friendly methods in tree removal and disposal.
- Use removed wood for mulch or community projects.

Wildlife Habitat Protection:

- Special consideration for nesting eagles.
- Enhance habitat features to support local flora and fauna.

Benefits to the Community



Improved Safety:

- Reduced risk of injury from falling trees or branches.
- Enhanced trail experience with safe and scenic surroundings.

Scenic and Recreational Value:

- More enjoyable and attractive trail environment for hikers, bikers, and nature enthusiasts.
- Increased biodiversity and ecological health of the trail area.

The Benefits of Teaming with B&L



Local Experience

Barton & Loguidice has over two decades of experience working trails and connectivity projects throughout Connecticut. Our experience will guide us and provide insight into the evolving needs of the Town. Additionally, our Somers, NY and Glastonbury, CT offices are both a short drive from the Town, allowing us to be highly responsive.



Commitment

We are always focused on our commitment to providing innovative, sustainable, and tailored solutions to our clients. We leverage our **multi-disciplinary expertise** to meet our clients' unique needs and exceed their expectations in the projects we undertake.



Results

Driven by our guiding principles and a culture of excellence, we are committed to delivering outstanding professional and business services, always focused on achieving **impactful results** for our clients while maintaining respect for our employees, clients, and all stakeholders we engage with.

THANK YOU!

Thank you for taking the time to meet with us.
Feel free to contact us at any time with any additional questions.



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