

29 March 2015

Sebring Mechanical Design, Inc., a Townsend MA small business fully supports the Squannacook Rail Trail for the following reasons:

The trail would provide a safe travel route from Townsend Center to the high school and beyond. Currently the only way to walk or bicycle from the town center to the high school or Harbor Village Mall is to navigate alongside extremely busy and narrow route 119. There are no sidewalks and the edges of the road are typically potholed and in poor repair.

The trail would be a great place for people to exercise providing traffic-free running, biking or just walking and chatting with friends.

There are many features along the trail not easily accessed by roadways such as the Squannacook River, Harbor Pond and other trails for hiking.

A safe exit out of town for cyclists would be provided by the trail. In order to avoid riding on dangerous route 119 the only way to safely head out of town towards Shirley or Groton on a road bike ride is to ride up and over Wallace Hill and cross 119 at either South Street or Proctor and Townsend Road. The trail would provide a safe route without starting a ride with a long climb.

Securing this rail corridor for 99 years means that the corridor will remain open and as communities continue to grow, along with the requisite traffic, there could be a possibility for a light commuter rail system in the distant future. If existing abandoned rail beds are allowed to be broken up and sold off it will be very difficult and expensive to recreate the space needed for mass transit as an alternative to the automobile.

*Paul Sebring is the president of Sebring Mechanical Design, Inc. which, in 1998 was incorporated in Townsend. Sebring Mechanical provides state of the art mechanical design and prototyping of medical X-ray systems, peripherals and patient support structures for medical device manufacturers.*

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