

Arcand, Richard

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**From:** Kris pastoriza [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 30, 2020 8:48 AM  
**To:** Stewart, Sarah; Gamache, Christopher; Cryans, Michael; adorsett@townoflittleton.org  
**Cc:** selectman5@bethlehemnh.org; Nancy West; rblechl@caledonian-record.com; David Van Houten; selectman4@bethlehemnh.org; Volinsky, Andru; Margaret Connors; Nancy Martland; Jim Alden; Kris Pieper; Mike Dickerman; Susan Ford; selectmen@townoflittleton.org; Kate Goldsborough; Pat Kellogg; McPhaul, Dolly; John Petrofsky; Easton SelectBoard; Admin@BethlehemNH.org; Linda Lauer; selectman2@bethlehemnh.org; BEAR ROCK; Will Abbott; Winters, Shelley; Barker, Louis; Abby Evankow; Wayne Moynihan; Susan E Percy; Lucy Wyman; Mary Jo Greene  
**Subject:** Littleton Rail Trail

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To DNCR and BOT,

a recent article in the Littleton Courier (5/13/20) stated that the Littleton to Bethlehem Rail Trail had been approved. This article made no mention of whether ATVs would be permitted on the trail.

A Nov.1, 2019 article in the Caledonian Record, which covered the only recent public meeting on the proposed rail trail, stated:

*Chris Gamache said that the (Wednesday Oct. 30th) meeting was "only the first of a number of meeting that will be held where input will be gathered from all residents.*

*"This is not the only night and opportunity to discuss this," he said. "This is only the beginning."*

*Abutters in Littleton have not yet been notified, but they will be, he said."*

The article also stated that Littleton Resident Bryant Hadlock acknowledged the serious problems with ATVs: **"Everybody does not have to fear what you see up north"**, but denied these problems would exist on the proposed dead end (for how long?) rail trail, begging the question of why BOT would be quietly promoting ATVs on a rail trail which they claim will see little ATV use;

Littleton resident Bryan Hadlock said there isn't much ATV traffic now along the Ammonoosuc Recreation Trail from Littleton to Woodsville and a dead-end trail in Bethlehem is not likely to increase it.

"Everybody does not have to fear what you see up north," said Hadlock. "We don't have the side trails."

The Caledonian article quoted Chris Gamache again: **"Future discussions will involve use management, such as possibly rerouting ATVs in some areas, the possible use of private land or roads, and coordination and communicating between the town and state on regulations, enforcement, marketing, and signage"...**

**"We really need to treat this as a partnership" he said."**

BOT/DNCR deliberately failed to treat this as a partnership, an especially egregious breach of promise given the current pandemic.

While residents, business owners and Riverglen have been dealing with Covid, DNCR, Chris Gamache and Littleton Town Manager Andrew Dorsett have been making decisions outside of public view, in violation of basic integrity as well as DNCR/BOT promises. Since Chris Gamache and Andrew Dorsett do not appear to make a habit of documenting the content of their phone calls, a 91-A would likely not have been enough to alert someone cynical enough to think BOT would lie to those at the October 2019 meeting.

This project was initially presented as a non-motorized trail. A 2013 Caledonian Record article stated

**"In Littleton, Gamache said, "This stretch of trail is being looked at as a regional bike trail from the Cooley-Jericho Community Forest in Easton to Gorham."**

[https://www.caledonianrecord.com/littleton\\_record/news/littletonrails-to-trails-proposal-nears-start/article\\_8d254529-0445-50f8-8e40-c8ea2fc580ea.html](https://www.caledonianrecord.com/littleton_record/news/littletonrails-to-trails-proposal-nears-start/article_8d254529-0445-50f8-8e40-c8ea2fc580ea.html)

When ATVs were introduced, it was as a possible use that would be fully explored, with stakeholders' and residents' input:

A presentation to Littleton stated: "Have to work with River District on Connections and Coordination of Aesthetics (sic)."

BOT reneged on this other promised future discussions with stakeholders and residents:

**FUTURE DISCUSSIONS**

- USE MANAGEMENT
  - ALL USES ON ALL SECTIONS?
  - REROUTE OHRV OR EQUINE IN SOME AREAS? MAY NEED USE OF PRIVATE LANDS OR ROADS
  - FUNDING (ONLY MOTORIZED PAY TODAY AND ALL MAINT FUNDS FROM MOTORS)
  - COORD STATE & TOWN
- COORDINATION AND COMMUNICATION
  - BETWEEN TOWN AND STATE
  - COORD REGULATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT
  - MARKETING AND SIGNAGE
  - CONSISTENT MANAGEMENT AND COMM
  - PLAN TO ADDRESS ISSUES BEFORE BECOME ISSUES
  - PARTNERSHIP

**TRAIL PERMITTED USES**

**ALL OTHER USES PROHIBITED**

RSA 215-A:33 & RSA 216-F:2 III  
STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
BUREAU OF STATE AND RECREATION  
BUREAU OF TRAILS

<http://www.townoflittleton.org/uploads/PDFs%20and%20Forms/homepage2/Littleton%20Presentation%20103019.pdf>

When Covid restrictions on public meetings are lifted (assuming they are lifted safely) DNCR needs to re-start the permitting and input process, beginning with a better notification of the *proposed* use, followed the public meetings it promised.

Kris Pastoriza

Easton, NH