

# TOWN OF COLUMBIA COLUMBIA, NEW HAMPSHIRE

OFFICE TEL. 603-237-5255 • FAX 603-237-8270 • P.O. BOX 157 • COLEBROOK, N.H. 03576  
E-MAIL [towncolumbia@myfairpoint.net](mailto:towncolumbia@myfairpoint.net) • WEBSITE [www.columbianh.org](http://www.columbianh.org)

October 14, 2020

Shelley Winters  
Administrator, Bureau of Rail & Transit  
New Hampshire Dept. of Transportation  
PO Box 483  
Concord NH 03302-0483

(Via email: [Michelle.L.Winters@dot.nh.gov](mailto:Michelle.L.Winters@dot.nh.gov))

Christopher Gamache  
Chief Bureau of Trails  
New Hampshire Dept. of Natural & Cultural Resources  
172 Pembroke Road  
Concord NH 03301

(Via email: [Christopher.J.Gamache@dncr.nh.gov](mailto:Christopher.J.Gamache@dncr.nh.gov))

Re: State-owned railroad & request for non-railroad access  
Columbia Bridge Road, Columbia to Simms Stream and the Columbia Town Hall  
Properties to NH Route 26 in Colebrook

Dear Administrator Winters and Chief Gamache,

Thank you for your letter of September 23, 2020 detailing your responses to our expressed interest in using the out-of-service state owned railroad corridor to develop a non-motorized recreation trail for hiking and biking from Columbia Bridge to the Columbia owned property abutting Simms Stream next to our old Town Hall. We appreciate the work involved in coordinating this request and the outline of next steps that should be taken all of which seem appropriate to us.

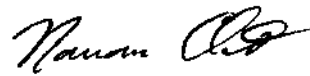
We also acknowledge and understand that your response includes non-overlapping proposed ATV use of the rail corridor north from our Town Hall properties but we have not had any recent communications on that proposal which apparently was made by the Town of

Colebrook through the Metallak ATV Club. We are also willing to cooperate in development of that proposed ATV trail project to the extent it is located in Columbia north of our Town Hall properties. By copy of this letter we are advising the Town of Colebrook of our position on that proposed use.

Accordingly, the Town of Columbia is in agreement with the bullet points outlined in your letter and would like to proceed with DNCR as its point of contact for the filing of the STB discontinuance and abandonment documents. Please advise us of the name or names of the personnel at DNCR with whom we should be in contact regarding next steps. We are copying the Town of Colebrook on this response to your letter.

Thank you again for your attention and response to our request to proceed with this exciting project.

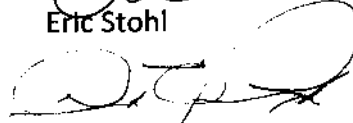
Sincerely,



Norman Cloutier, Chairman



Eric Stohl



Donald Campbell

Board of Selectmen

cc: Town of Colebrook Board of Selectmen ([info@colebrooknh.org](mailto:info@colebrooknh.org))  
Executive Councilor Michael Cryans ([Michael.Cryans@nh.gov](mailto:Michael.Cryans@nh.gov))  
Philip Beaulieu DOT District 1 ([Philip.L.Beaulieu@dot.nh.gov](mailto:Philip.L.Beaulieu@dot.nh.gov))  
Clinton Savage Trails Bureau-District 1 ([Clinton.J.Savage@dncr.nh.gov](mailto:Clinton.J.Savage@dncr.nh.gov))  
Alan Robert Baker ([abobbaker@aol.com](mailto:abobbaker@aol.com))