

## RR Bed Committee Report for the Town Warning 2018

In the fall of 2017, the Select Board appointed a Railroad Bed Committee to create a town ordinance which will define what is allowed and what is not allowed and means of enforcement relative to the property owned by the Town of Groton known as the Railroad bed. The objective is to create an ordinance to maintain the railroad bed for public use.

From the Groton Town Plan:

The rail bed of the Montpelier & Wells River Railroad now serves as part of the Cross Vermont Trail, a four-season, multi-use route for recreation and alternative transportation through northern central Vermont. When completed, the Vermont CrossTrail will run about 90 miles, connecting towns from Lake Champlain to the Connecticut River. While this ambitious endeavor is still a work in progress, Groton already contains the longest stretch of the trail, enhancing the premier destination for recreation-based tourism. The rail bed has historic and cultural significance to Groton, and many residents currently enjoy it for dog walking, snowmobiling, hiking, cycling, and even horseback riding. Connectivity and wayfinding between the trail, the various state forest sites, and the Village Center, as well as visitor amenities (such as parking) are essential and should be given special planning consideration. It is also important that the Town actively maintains the portion of the rail bed, even though it is not actually a town road..

Current information about the Groton Railroad Bed Committee can be found at [grotonvt.com](http://grotonvt.com) under town offices or you can contact any member of this committee who are listed on the website.

The Town Plan (look at the Recreation Section for information about the RR Bed,) can also be found at [grotonvt.com](http://grotonvt.com)

Approved by the Committee Jan. 5, 2018