

Portland Air Line Trail Update





March 2016

Recent Major Accomplishments to Celebrate!

- *Eversource Energy* and the *Town of Portland* have reached an agreement to allow the town to use a 2.3 mile section of the *Air Line Trail* in Portland for recreational use. The agreement was approved by the Board of Selectmen on December 2, 2015. A signing ceremony took place on January 20, 2016.
- At a public town meeting on March 2, 2016, citizens of Portland approved the purchase of 22 acres of property off Middle Haddam Road (*The Keegan Property*) to be used as a trailhead/parking area for the Air Line Trail in Portland.
- The State Bonding Commission approved funding for the development of state recreational trails, administered through DEEP, that could include sections of the Air Line Trail in Portland and East Hampton; funds the towns applied for. Grant notifications should be announced sometime in March.

Portland Signs License Agreement with Eversource Energy on January 20, 2016 for Use of the Air Line Trail in Portland!



Some of the supporters who witnessed the signing ceremony January 20 at the Waverly Center.



A few of the 46 participants who came out for the "Freezin' For A Reason" hike on the Portland Air Line Trail, January 23, 2016 to celebrate the signing agreement.



Portland Air Line Trail - Phase One Eversource-Owned Property Under the License Agreement

YMCA Camp Ingersol

> Keegan Property

> > **Breezy Corners Road**

Depot Hill Road

Cobalt Center

Middle Haddam Road

a Chance Controls a

Route 66

Morin Diesel

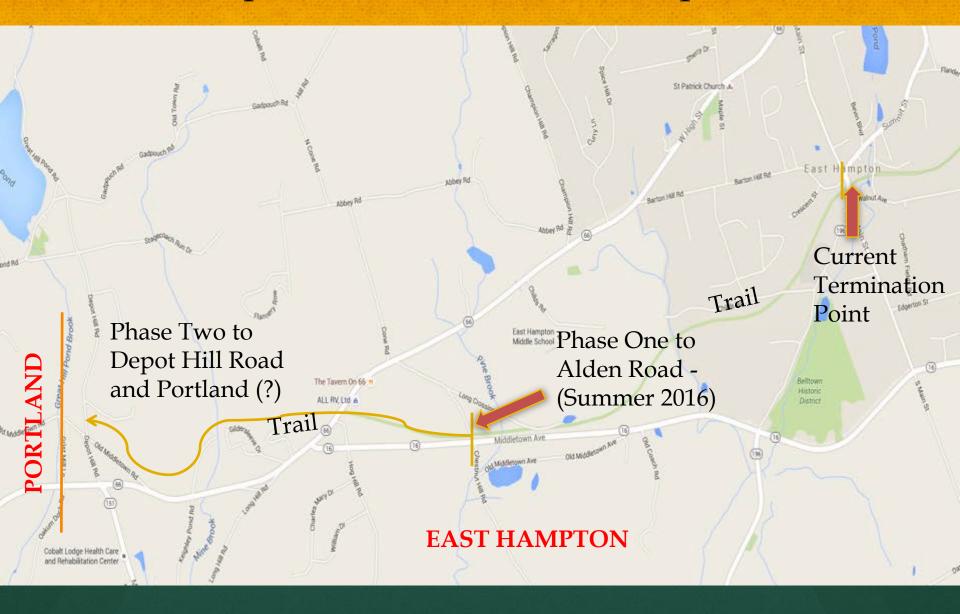
Castle & Marina

Related Development

East Hampton has received partial funding for, and is proceeding to develop, the Air Line Trail from its current termination point at Main Street towards Portland. Development will occur in two phases:

- The first phase runs to Alden Crossing and Rt. 16 and is scheduled to be completed by the end of summer 2016.
- The second phase goes to Depot Hill Road at the town line of Portland. This phase is awaiting funding approval.

East Hampton Air Line Trail Development Plan



CURRENT GOALS

- Secure funding for trail upgrade and renovation work from the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) (submitted on 6-24-2015) or other sources.
- Clear the trail of obstructions.
- Construct a trail bed using crushed stone and stone dust.
- Develop Keegan Property near Jobs Pond as a trailhead access point and parking area.

PROPOSED TIMELINE

- 2016 Clear and prepare trail bed for upgrade construction of trail. Prepare engineering design plan and solicit construction bids.
- 2016-17 secure bids for construction and begin construction.
- 2017 Complete construction; Ribbon Cutting Ceremony; multi-use trail opens to public for nonmotorized recreational use.

PHASE II

- Explore possible routes of trail from end of Phase I to downtown area and bridge, including dialogue with private property owners for possible use of former rail property parallel to Rt. 66 and with State DOT for possible alternative trail along Rt. 66.
- Propose cooperative purchase of the Railroad Depot on Marlborough Street.
- Explore a usage agreement with the Providence & Worcester Railroad to establish a parallel trail from Marlborough Street to Airline Avenue.
- Work with the Complete Streets Group to connect the Air Line trail to other streets, the Arrigoni bridge and the Riverfront Park.

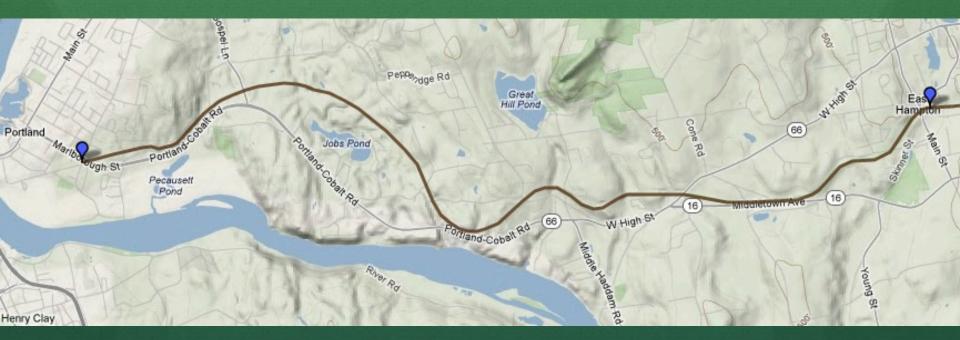
PHASE III

- Celebrate the completion of the Air Line Trail from Depot Hill Road to the Arrigoni Bridge.
- Connect the Air Line Trail to the Portland Riverfront Park and continue a trail north along the river.
- Work with the towns of Portland and Glastonbury to develop a bike trail on Tryon Street from the fairgrounds to Glastonbury and the Cumberland/Hollester Ferry.

Previous Accomplishments of Portland and the Air Line Trail Committee

- Secured \$10,000 development funding from the Board of Selectmen. Requested additional funding for the upcoming year.
- Hired an engineering trail consultant, Kevin Grindle, of Anchor Engineering, who also works with East Hampton's trail development.
- Formed an active partner "Complete Streets" Committee to examine bike and pedestrian use issues throughout town.
- Developed a trail "Site Plan."
- Negotiated an agreement with Spectra Gas Company, whose pipes run along parts of the Portland trail bed.
- Negotiated with YMCA Camp Ingersoll for possible trail access through their property.
- Organized Trail walks.

Map of Old Air Line Railroad from East Hampton to Portland



Original route of the Air Line Railroad from East Hampton to Portland. Markers indicate sites of former station stops. This section is currently undeveloped and owned by private property owners, including large sections by Eversource Energy (formerly CL&P/Northeast Utilities).

Current Trail Conditions



Recent Renovations by Eversource



Some of the Challenges



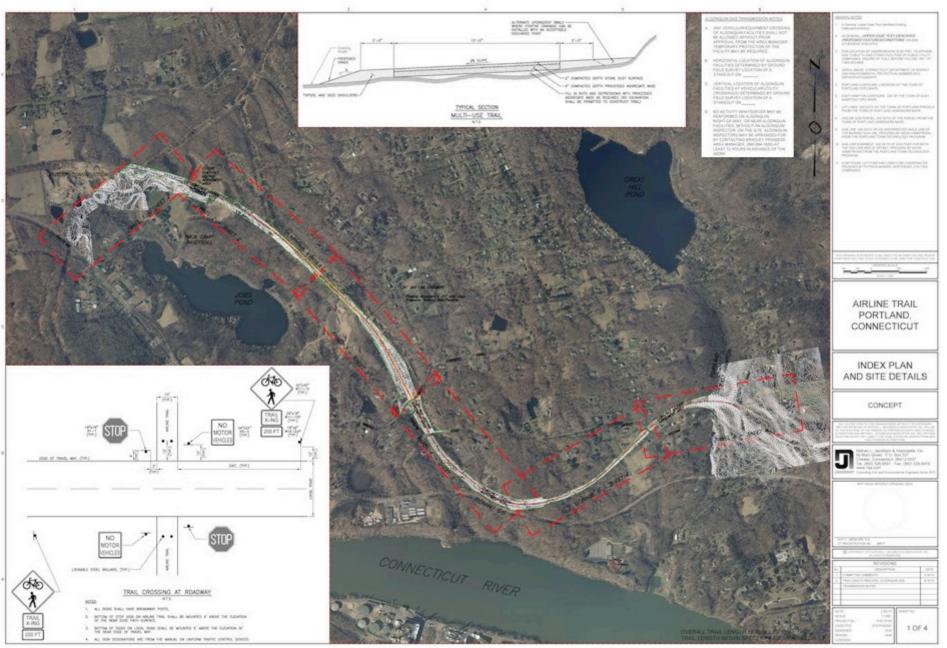
The Dream



Connecticut Trails Day hike on the Portland Air Line Trail, June 6, 2015



SITE PLAN – PHASE I - Trail from Depot Hill Road to Jobs Pond area (Section owned by Eversource Energy) - Page 1 of 4









Air Line Trail Steering Committee

Regular Members: Lou Pear, Co-Chair Sari Rizzo, Co-Chair Steve Byrne **Chantal Foster** Kathy Herron Tom Ladny John Shafer

Alternates: Steve Crusberg Bill Flood Ex Officio: Susan Bransfield, First Selectwoman Deanna Rhodes, Town Planner Richard Kelsey, Dir. of Public Works

Sean Dwyer, Dir. of Parks & Rec. Special Consultant: Kevin Grindle, Anchor Engineering

MISSION

To establish a Multi-Use Recreational Trail in Portland.

"... The Portland Board of Selectmen recognizes the need to appoint a committee to organize, guide, and support a larger group of citizen volunteers in activities to build public support for the trail, develop specific plans for trail access, identify funding sources, and cooperate with regional entities – activities that, together, will improve the effectiveness of Portland's effort to restore the Air Line Trail in Portland..."

> - Portland Board of Selectmen Resolution March 5, 2014

Thank you. For further Information . . .

Contact Committee Chairs: Louis Pear - <u>louisjpear@gmail.com</u> Sari Rizzo - <u>theriz4@sbcglobal.net</u>

See & Like Our <u>FACEBOOK PAGE</u> More info on the <u>current Air Line Trail</u>

Historic Portland Air Line Trail



Banner / Logo designed by Andy Bauer

Web Presentation by John Shafer