

BERKSHIRE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

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Lee Bike Path Feasibility Study

Fact Sheet #1

Introduction: A multi-use trail through the Town of Lee was part of the Lee Community Development Plan of 2004 and a trail focused on the Housatonic River has been a goal of the Lee Community Development Corporation. The multi-use trail would accommodate a variety of uses, including walking, running, bicycling, in-line skating and cross country skiing. It is expected that this trail will eventually serve as part of a north-south trail spine connecting Vermont and Connecticut. The trail will have a positive impact on the local economy, promoting tourism and contributing to local businesses.

The Lee Bicycle Path Committee is preparing a preliminary feasibility analysis for a multi-use trail through the Town. Assistance is being provided by the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC). A final report will be submitted by September 2009. The final report will identify a preferred route for further study. Once the feasibility study is complete, the Town would like to retain a consultant to provide conceptual designs and engineering.

The following goals, adopted by the Lee Bicycle Path Committee, directed this work:

- Connect with the Berkshire Bike Path's north-south spine from Lenox to Stockbridge
- Make the trail an "experience" by connecting with a variety of natural, cultural and recreational resources within Lee
- Make the trail accessible to tourists and local residents
- Promote local businesses by bringing the trail through the downtown area
- Market the trail for recreation and economic development
- Connect with area schools to provide safe access for children

The Committee envisions the trail connecting with:

- Laurel Lake, Town Beach
- Housatonic River
- Downtown Lee, Central Business District
- Village Green near Lee Congregational Church
- Athletic Field and Kayak Launch off of Housatonic Street
- Schools on Greylock Street
- Prime Outlet Village – provide the potential for pedestrians to access the Outlets from the trail
- Jacobs Ladder Trail on Route 20 towards Becket
- Mills on Route 102 (Laurel Mill and Mead)
- Oak and Spruce Resort on Route 102
- Bear Town Mountain hiking trails
- The Town of Stockbridge near the existing Mary Flynn Trail