

## Dean Bloch

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**From:** Kate Lampton <klampton@gmavt.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 06, 2016 9:00 PM  
**To:** Dean Bloch  
**Cc:** Allen Karnatz  
**Subject:** Selectboard meeting comments

Dean -

I'll be attending the Selectboard meeting [on Monday night](#) for the discussion on the trail easement to be located on the Hinsdale/Preston project parcel. If it would be useful, please distribute this summary of the comments I have for the meeting to the Selectboard ahead of time. Thanks, Kate

The project closing is scheduled for early February and a change in the project at this point may impact the closing date and require unanticipated changes for any of the parties involved. We have proceeded in preparations for closing based on the approval and conditions we received several months ago from the Town as part of our Conservation Fund grant. Additionally, the project has been presented, in news releases, in fundraising material and in grant presentations to other funding sources, as having a trail easement as a public benefit of the project. We are concerned about the deletion of the easement after the project was represented as having one. We hope that the project can move forward as approved and that changes at this late date will not be made.

The larger question of trail easements, their timing, future use and management is a legitimate discussion for the Selectboard, the Trails Committee and others interested in development of a townwide system. It is a discussion which deserves input from all of those involved with trail development and the public in general. I hope that this discussion can take place at a time when all of those with interest in the subject have ample notice of the discussion and can proceed in a comprehensive structured way. I don't think that deleting an easement on one particular project answers any of the larger questions and also adds uncertainty for the land trusts as to what the Town wants in projects. The Charlotte Land Trust is not actively involved in trail development but we are very willing to participate in any discussions about the best ways to acquire easements, as it relates to conservation projects.