



January 20, 2016

Dear David Shepler,

Thank you for reaching out to the Wallkill Valley Land Trust to share your proposed plans for the properties off North Route 32, bordering the Wallkill Valley Rail Trail. It was great that Carol Lefevre (Board member of the Wallkill Valley Land Trust) and Michael Reede (Vice President of the Wallkill Valley Rail Trail Association) could also join us.

As you are aware, the Village of New Paltz owns that section of the Wallkill Valley Rail Trail (Rail Trail), and the Wallkill Valley Land Trust holds the conservation easement on the Rail Trail. The conservation easement provides permanent protection of the land (which is roughly 66 feet wide). Our sister not-for-profit organization, the Wallkill Valley Rail Trail Association works to advocate for the Rail Trail, oversees the signage, assists with the public interactions and maintenance needs of the 22-mile Rail Trail.

With all of these layers of ownership, obligation, and interest, and the importance of the Wallkill Valley Rail Trail to the community, we appreciate you taking the time to speak with us. It is the legal responsibility of the Wallkill Valley Land Trust to uphold the conservation easement, which essentially allows for the protection of this valuable linear park while also providing public access.

The Wallkill Valley Land Trust supports the "Zero Place" concept you shared with us, in developing a blended space between the proposed development and the Rail Trail. Of course, any proposed improvement plans, of any kind must be sent to the Wallkill Valley Land Trust prior to work commencing, and the Land Trust will respond in writing once the Board has examined and ensured that the proposed plans are not a violation of the easement restrictions. And the Land Trust will ask that you receive permission from the land owner (the Village) as well.

The Wallkill Valley Land Trust will, as our customary practice, share all plans with our sister not-for-profit the Wallkill Valley Rail Trail Association for input, since they deal with the long term impact of all changes to the Rail Trail.

Below is a short list of the basic restrictions of the easement as a general reminder, but as we discussed, the "Zero Place" proposal, with the blended space improvements, in concept, sound to be appropriate and a future benefit to the Rail Trail.

Sincerely,
Christie DeBoer
Executive Director

Rail Trail conservation easements restrictions summarized:

- 1- Motorized vehicles are not permitted at any time on the property.
- 2- No signage may be placed on the property of any kind unless placed by the land owner.
- 3- Dumping or storage of waste, trash, garbage is prohibited.

- 4- Structures are not permitted to be built on the property.
- 5- Construction of roadway crossings for public/ private use, provided they do not interfere with the use of the property as a linear park trail, are permitted only after prior approval of the land owner in writing.
- 6- Clear-cutting of wood is prohibited without written consent by the land owner, and provided that the clearing is for trail maintenance purposes.
- 7- The Wallkill Valley Rail Trail is open dawn to dusk.
- 8- Any events on the property must be coordinated through the Wallkill Valley Land Trust permit process and be approved by the land owner.

CC: Michael Reede, Wallkill Valley Rail Trail Association