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CONTACT: Michelle Cruz 603-356-5701 ext.302 mwvvp@mtwashingtonvalley.org
<http://www.mwvrecpath.org/> North Conway, NH – February 25, 2020

Mt. Washington Valley Rec Path receives approval for preliminary design

The Mt. Washington Valley Trails Association is one step closer to breaking ground for the North Conway Recreation Path, a 2.9-mile paved multi-use, non-motorized path between Hemlock Lane and Cranmore Mountain Resort.

Following a successful fundraising campaign of \$2.3 million, announced at the Rock the Rec event on August 23, 2018, the Design and Development Committee, with the oversight of the MWVTA Board and the Rec Path committee, have been working diligently towards getting the Path built.

Members of the Committee and Town of Conway officials met with NH DOT in January 2019 for the initial scoping meeting to set parameters for the Project. This meeting is generally the kick-off for any Federally funded project, and projects within NH DOT lands. Following this meeting MWVTA was approved to proceed.

Since that time, they have been moving forward with staking out the length of the entire path with borings to determine substrate materials, archeological and heritage review, wetlands permitting, and environmental permitting.

After receiving Engineering Study approval from NH DOT in September 2019, the preliminary design was prepared and submitted in November. On Friday, February 21, 2020 the Design and Development Committee received approval of the Preliminary Design from NH DOT with a green light to proceed with the Final Design. "This is a major milestone for the North Conway Rec Path," said Larry Garland, VP of Mt. Washington Valley Trails Association and chair of the Recreation Path committee.

The Trails Association is hopeful that Final Design will be approved this spring with the construction bidding process to take place this summer.

The North Conway Rec Path is designed to provide opportunities for physical activity to improve fitness, mental health, and safe transportation alternatives. The 2.9 mile path will be a paved path accessible to residents and guests of all ages and abilities with convenient parking at the Hemlock Lane trailhead (near Walmart), Cranmore Resort, and Thompson Road. Walkers, joggers, bicyclists, and others will enjoy this multi-purpose scenic path and all that it offers along the way, including connections to The

Nature Conservancy's Green Hills Preserve, Pudding Pond and Sticks & Stones trailheads for hiking and mountain biking.

For more information about the project visit www.mwvrecpath.org.

The mission of the Mt Washington Valley Trails Association is to build and maintain multi-use recreation paths within the Mount Washington Valley area that provide residents and visitors alternative community access and opportunities for safe, family-oriented recreation and transportation. The goal and dream of the of the Trails Association is to see the Mount Washington Valley Recreation Path incorporated into a continuous 70 mile family-friendly "Linear Parkway" stretching from Portland, Maine through Bartlett, New Hampshire and beyond to be enjoyed by local residents and visitors to our valley.