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Topsfield selectmen move forward on recreational trail The Boston Globe

By John Laidler | September 24, 2006

The Topsfield Board of Selectmen has approved creation of a town account to accept private donations for development of a planned 4.5-mile recreational trail.

The selectmen this year reached an agreement with the MBTA that allows the town to lease most of the southern half of the trail for a nominal sum for 99 years.

The lease has since been executed.

The town is in discussions with National Grid, which owns the northern half of the proposed trail corridor, about using that land.

The Topsfield Rail Trail Committee, which is overseeing the project, has pledged to develop the trail without town funds.

The committee will apply for a \$50,000 matching grant for the project from the state Department of Conservation and Recreation.

If the money is awarded, the committee will be required to provide a \$12,500 match in the form of cash, volunteer labor, or donated services and materials.

The \$50,000 would help fund the development of the trail from Washington Street to Summer Street. ■

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