

PO Box 177
Hardwick, Vt. 05843
June 26, 2017

To Whom It May Concern,

How does one capture and convey the importance of what happened in the past? People have erected monuments for that purpose since the beginning of self-awareness, and Americans have embraced the habit with particular fervor. The American Association for State and Local History devoted the most recent issue of its journal, *History News*, to the problems presented by static monuments erected to commemorate historical events. It points out that although our understanding of history changes over time, the interpretation built into a static monument does not. The editor of the *History News* observed that "The remembered past through public monuments provides an opportunity to 'clarify misconceptions, reveal complexities, temper volatile viewpoints, open people to new possibilities, and lead to more effective solutions for today's challenges' "¹ Perhaps he should have added 'provided they can change as our understanding changes.'

The Granite Junction History Trail (GJHT) represents an opportunity to do all the good things historical monuments can do, and, because it is not a static monument, it will evolve as our understanding and interpretation of Hardwick's granite era evolves. The Hardwick Historical Society (HHS) enthusiastically supports this project.

The proposal notes the educational value the GJHT will add to school curricula, but modestly does not mention that it, like all cultural heritage installations, will quietly provide educational value to the population that no longer attends formal educational institutions. While many in the community have heard about the time when granite cutting made Hardwick a major industrial player, as many have not. Putting this trail and its accompanying information kiosks on the site where the largest of the granite manufacturers had its plant will provide all who use the trail an educational moment on the site of the events. If we define education as change, every time someone looks at a picture, reads a paragraph, or

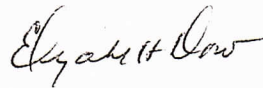
¹Bob Beaty, "From the Editor." *History News*, Vol. 71 #4 (Autumn 2016); p. 2.

notices a landmark that had gone unnoticed before, the GJHT will change his or her the information, attitude, or awareness – an educational moment that will change the viewer's relationship to the community and its history. That's invaluable.

The HHS has full confidence in the CAE's ability to successfully complete this project. We have worked with the staff as it developed previous historical displays, and we know they work diligently to present an accurate and clear interpretation of what we know of the past. Hardwick's history is in good hands when the CAE presents it.

We unhesitatingly encourage you to fund the GJHT. If you have any questions about our experience with the CAE or about anything else, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Elizabeth H. Dow".

Elizabeth H. Dow, President
Hardwick Historical Society
edow1@earthlink.net

January 24, 2017

Suzanne Bader
Hardwick Elementary School
Sustainability Team, 4th Grade Teacher
135 South Main Street
Hardwick, Vermont
Recreational Facilities Grant
Vermont Department of Buildings and General Services

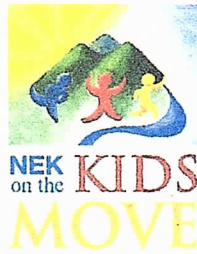
To Whom It May Concern,

I am pleased to be writing this letter of support for the Center for an Agricultural Economy's proposal for the Recreational Facilities Grant. As a member of the Hardwick Elementary School's Sustainability Team, I believe that this project will provide many educational benefits for our students. We have successfully coordinated, planned and organized many projects with the CAE over the past few years, and we are excited to have our students be a part of and benefit from this project.

At Hardwick Elementary school, we seek to weave science, history, nutrition, farming, literacy, and math together to create inspirational experiences for our children. We know that children are motivated when learning is connected and hands-on, so many teachers have taken advantage of the short walk down to Atkin's Field to provide richer learning experiences for their students. Classes worked in the community garden, planted seeds in the greenhouse and hiked the trail. Last year, my first and second graders explored the changing of the seasons on the trails. We took weekly hikes and explored the vernal pools, noting the changes that we observed each week. Pictures were taken of our observations and students made journal entries and wrote poetry. On our hikes, we wondered and asked questions about what happened here along this trail long ago. After our hikes, we'd head over to the gardens, wishing for some shade to continue our work. The children envisioned some sort of shelter where they could continue their work outdoors. It's exciting to hear that this may become a reality! With the creation of the Granite Junction History Trail, the students will gain a greater understanding and appreciation for the history of their town, learn about maps while exploring the woods, and have opportunities to hike beautiful Buffalo Mountain to get a bird's-eye view of their town. Our students, some who usually spend little time outdoors and are disconnected from local history and cultural traditions, will walk away with a greater sense of community and purpose.

Our community connections and partnerships are strong, and we are fortunate to live in a community that supports our efforts. In short, we fully support this proposal for the Recreational Facilities Grant, as we believe it will build the core elements that Hardwick Elementary School needs to take advantage of its resources here, and to become a school for the future of our world!

Sincerely,
Suzanne Bader
sbader@ossu.org



January 24, 2017

To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to submit this letter of support for the Center for an Agricultural Economy's proposed Granite Junction History Trail at Atkins Field.

The CAE has done an amazing job at revitalizing a large piece of land that was going unused for the most part. This trail would be furthering that vision. In the summer time, Atkins field has become a meeting place, not only for Friday Farmer's Markets but children come down to enjoy the bicycle pump track and other activities that are held on the field. In the winter, the Hardwick Recreation Committee has installed an ice rink liner for more cold-weather fun. This trail would greatly benefit the community not only by keeping history alive, but also allowing people safe access to an area that is currently inaccessible.

The proposed pavilion will replace a massive unusable building with something that would further community activity in this part of town. It could feasibly be utilized as cover for the ice rink in the winter which would keep the rink in better shape and it would be an excellent music venue or outside music venue in the summer.

The CAE has been and continues to be a strong asset in our community. As a non-profit, they are continually looking for ways to strengthen our community and bringing new opportunities ranging from economic to recreational to Hardwick.

As program director of Hardwick's non-profit program, NEK Kids on the Move, I feel this historical hike would be utilized by school groups both for recreation and as an educational tool. It is important for teachers to have unique opportunities to engage their students in learning about the history of their town. Also, as the chair of Hardwick's Recreation Committee, I support this trail. The future potential to link with the Hardwick Trails network would give lower Hardwick village a beautiful way to access the extensive trail network located at the other end of town.

I am pleased that the CAE is taking such initiative to revitalize a 'forgotten' part of town. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Katharine Ingram
Program Director, NEK Kids on the Move
Chair, Hardwick Recreation Committee