**FY 2022**

**Draft Conservation Committee Budget recommendation**

**640-4114**

**Greenbelt Trails (4114) $19,000**

This account is used for purchasing supplies and services to maintain the greenbelt trail network. The Town Planner and the Conservation Committee manage this account. The Conservation Committee is recommending that the account again be funded at $19,000.

The Conservation Committee just completed a Greenbelt Infrastructure Assessment to identify all needed improvements. Many trail improvements require state and local permitting. By performing a town-wide assessment, the Conservation Committee can package needed improvements by property or area to reduce permitting costs. The assessment identified 17 high priority site improvements, 39 medium priority improvements and 10 low priority improvements. The assessment recommendations align with comments received by the committee from trail users identifying trail needs. The Conservation Committee has submitted a separate capital improvement request for $80,000 to address most of the high priority needs. Funding in this account will also be used to address needs. For summer 2021, the focus will be the extensive muddy conditions on the Town Farm trail. This account is also used to leverage additional resources by funding supplies for eagle scout trail improvement projects, supply purchases for trail and open space management, and cash match for grant applications.

Although not included in this account, the Conservation Committee strongly supports the 1/2 time seasonal trail maintenance contracted work.