MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Town Council

FROM: Mark E. Biberdorf, Town Manager MEB

COPY TO: Heather Taylor, Assistant Town Manager
Greg Walker, Parks & Recreation Director

DATE: March 27, 2024

SUBJECT: Discussion of Grant Opportunities for Extension of the Cane Creek Greenway and Potential Operating Cost Impacts

Rebekah Robinson with Conserving Carolina had previously appeared before Council regarding a potential grant source for extension of the Cane Creek Greenway. She will be back before Council to discuss that grant program called Connecting Communities to State Trails. She will also be discussing another potential grant source called the Great Trails State Program (GTSP). Both need to be discussed with Council in order to get some direction in terms of authority to pursue one or both of these grants.

Another issue that was previously brought up about extending the greenway was what would be the operational cost impact for doing so. Looking at just the Cane Creek Greenway extension there would be some operating cost impacts on both the personnel side and capital side as well. In terms of personnel, this expansion would likely push our Parks & Recreation Department to the point of needing an additional full-time maintenance worker. The net cost for this, factoring in eliminating the need for a keeping a permanent part-time maintenance position, would be $43,952 in the first year.

On the capital side of operating cost impacts, staff would recommend the purchase of a utility terrain vehicle (UTV). This purchase could be initiated by either the Police Department or Parks & Recreation Department. The estimated cost for a police equipped UTV would be approximately $21,000. A parks & recreation equipped UTV would be in the neighborhood of $16,000.

If Council should have any questions on the information provided here in advance of the meeting, please let me know.

MEB/meb