



**AGENDA**  
**BREVARD ECUSTA TRAIL ADVISORY BOARD - REGULAR MEETING**  
**Wednesday, April 23, 2025 - 3:30 PM**  
**City Council Chambers**

- A. Welcome and Call to Order**
- B. Certification of Quorum**
- C. Approval of Agenda**
- D. Approval of Minutes**
  - 1. March 26th, 2025 Draft Minutes
- E. Public Comments**
- F. New Business**
  - 1. Consideration of Trail Access via Pisgah Labs Property
  - 2. Vote: Ecusta Trail Rules & Etiquette Final Draft
- G. Unfinished Business**
  - 1. Further Discussion of Trail Funding
- H. Remarks / Future Agenda Considerations**
- I. Adjourn**

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Agenda Posted, Website, April 21, 2025  
M. Baker, Board Clerk

**MINUTES**  
**ECUSTA TRAIL ADVISORY BOARD 2.0**

**Wednesday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – 3:30 pm**  
City Hall Council Chambers

Members Present: Aaron Baker, Chair, Council Member  
Mac Morrow, Vice Chair, Council Member  
Dee Dee Perkins, Transylvania Development Authority  
John Ditillo, Friends of Ecusta Trail  
Doug Miller, Heart of Brevard  
Madeline Hanley, At-Large Appointment (joined via Zoom)  
Chris Burns, Ex-Officio

Absent: Larry Chapman, Transylvania County Commissioner  
Rebekah Robinson, Conserving Carolina  
Sheila Carland, Transylvania Economic Alliance  
Meredith Carli, At-Large Appointment

Staff Present: Maureen Copelof, Mayor, Ex-Officio  
Paul Ray, Planning Director  
David Todd, City Engineer  
Madalin Baker, Board Secretary  
Aaron Bland, Assistant Planning Director  
Wilson Hooper, City Manager

Guests: Lonnie Watkins, NCDOT  
Mark Tooley, Friends of the Ecusta Trail  
Vicki Eastland, Land of Sky RPO  
Nory LeBrun, HTF, HDR, TCTDA, HAC

**A. Welcome and Call to Order**

Committee Chair Aaron Baker welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 3:31 PM.

**B. Certification of Quorum**

Quorum was certified by Board Secretary Madalin Baker.

**C. Approval of Agenda**

D. Perkins proposed moving Public Comment up on the agenda to precede New Business. Motion to approve the agenda with that edit by D. Perkins, seconded by A. Baker. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **D. Approval of Minutes**

##### 1. Draft Minutes 2.25.2025

A motion to approve the February draft minutes was made by A. Baker, seconded by D. Perkins, carried unanimously.

#### **E. Public Comment**

A Brevard resident mentioned to the board that he was pleased to see the progress on repaving the parking lot and driveway at the Doctor's office. The gentleman did not provide further identifying details.

#### **F. New Business**

##### 1. Funding Update

W. Hooper provided an update regarding the status of the funding sources supporting the trail. He also looked to other folks in the room for input. J. White, NCDOT, shared RAISE and NSFLTP grants are under review at the federal level, but shared she is not exactly sure what that means. Wilson expressed a desire to talk to the Board members regarding lobbying Brevard's representatives in DC about supporting and keeping the grants. C. Burns stepped in at that point, sharing that he had spoken to the Congressman that morning and that the representative expressed an intense motivation to fight to keep the grants. C. Burns went on to recommend continuing the project as previously planned, which L. Watkins confirmed is aligned with NCDOT policy at the moment. W. Hooper reaffirmed that regardless of what happens, the Board is supportive of reaching 100% design, with the intentions that the project could be temporarily halted and resumed later with the same design plan. L. Watkins shared that the next project milestone from their end is construction, and that they anticipate going through the standard funding request procedure for that, in the next 6 to 7 months. C. Burns reminded the board that the RAISE grant in particular passes through the Appropriations Committee in Congress, and that our congressman sits on that committee. D. Miller expressed his hope that the funding and federal support continues.

#### **E. Unfinished Business**

##### 1. Trail Rules Follow-Up

W. Hooper recapped the edits suggested at the last meeting. Motion to approve the rules with those edits by A. Baker, second D. Perkins. Discussion followed before a vote was heard. D. Miller suggested perhaps adding a "stop at all street crossings," clause, to which C. Burns shared there are signs along the trail that will state "follow all posted trail signage." Selena, RTAC Co-Chair, also reminded the Board that unless the rules decided upon for the trail are accompanied by City ordinances, that they can't be enforced by City officials.

A. Baker amended his previous motion to adopt the rules by recommending adoption of the rules with the addition of “follow all posted signage” and the exclusion of the speed limit rule. D. Perkins seconded. D. Miller requested the addition of “vaping use” to the tobacco clause. With those changes, the vote passed unanimously. See Attachment A for the rules as updated at this meeting.

**G. Remarks/Future Agenda Considerations**

C. Burns shared with the Board some items regarding Henderson County’s concerns and potential new rules regarding parking around the trail. Some private land owners near the trail are looking to put in paid parking lots close to trail access. He also shared that he had been in contact with folks from the Swamp Rabbit trail regarding events hosted on the trail, discovering that their policy is to work with event coordinators directly and charge \$5 per head for events hosted on the trail. They do distinguish and have separate rules for “nonprofit events” and “official events.” The next regularly scheduled ETAB 2.0 meeting is scheduled for April 23, 2025 at 3:30 PM.

**H. Public Comments**

A guest asked if board members expect Hurricane Helene to have pushed back the opening of the Henderson County portion of the trail, and C. Burns responded no—that the Henderson County portion of the Ecusta Trail is set to open to the public on June 1<sup>st</sup>.

**I. Closed Session(s) – None.**

**J. Adjourn**

There being no further business, D. Perkins motioned to adjourn, M. Morrow seconded, passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:10 PM.

Minutes Approved-\_\_\_\_\_

X \_\_\_\_\_  
Aaron Baker, Chair

X \_\_\_\_\_  
Madalin Baker, Board Secretary

Attachments: ETAB Draft: Ecusta Trail Rules and Etiquette

**STAFF REPORT**

**Ecusta Trail Advisory Board, Wednesday, April 23, 2025**

**Title:** Consideration of Trail Access via Pisgah Labs Property

**Speaker:**

**Prepared by:**

**Approved by:**

**Attachments:**

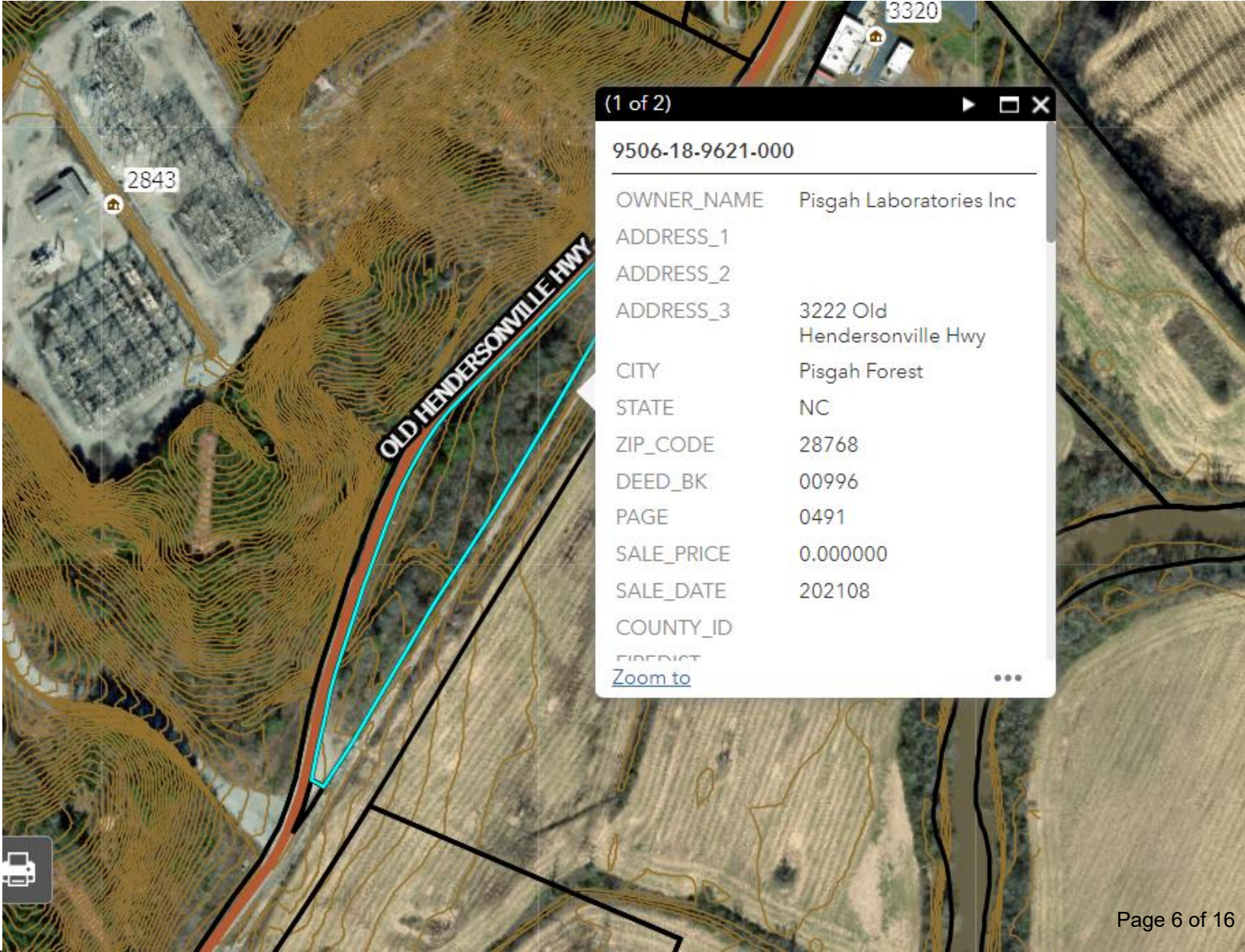
1. Presentation: Pisgah Labs for ETAB

# Parking Explorations

## Pisgah Labs

Small, undeveloped property adjacent to the Ecusta Trail Right-of-way.

Approximately 3.4 acres that is part of a larger 38-acre tract.



# Parking Explorations

## Pisgah Labs

The original Ecusta Trail Feasibility Study showed this as a potential trail access area.

The design team has not yet vetted this design for elements such as driveways (sight lines), topography, (walls needed) or other factors.

The Old Hendersonville Highway Trailhead includes development of 35 parking spaces, an open-air pavilion and kiosk with future restroom facilities, and additional landscape. The open-air pavilion is centrally located on the site, and all trail access would occur centrally through this facility.

Landscape enhancements buffer the parking lot from the trail and additional evergreen screening buffer adjacent land uses. Additional trailhead signage is proposed both along the trail and along Old Hendersonville Highway.

## TRAILHEAD #7

Figure 6.19- Potential Trailhead at Everett Road & Old Hendersonville Highway



# Parking Explorations

## **Pisgah Labs**

The property is located between Old Hendersonville Highway and the Ecusta Trail.

The southern portion is relatively flat.



# Parking Explorations

## Pisgah Labs

The property is partially forested.



# Fence Request

## Pisgah Labs

On a different property owned by Pisgah Labs, they requested permission to have a fence inside the Ecusta Trail Right-of-Way adjacent to their main administration building.



The Ecusta Trail  
Right-of-Way

# Fence Request

## Pisgah Labs

They want to protect their existing mature landscaping.



# Fence Request

The design team is examining their proposed locations and providing a recommendation that also takes into account the grading and needed drainage.

This will be worked out during the final design.



Proposed fenceline at top of slope

Ditchline for trail drainage

# ECUSTA ROW

Does the City of Brevard want to include the approximately 3.4 acres into the ROW?

- » If so, design team will include in National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) property study/permitting.
- » Continued coordination with Pisgah Labs is needed.



**STAFF REPORT**

**Ecusta Trail Advisory Board, Wednesday, April 23, 2025**

**Title:** Vote: Ecusta Trail Rules & Etiquette Final Draft

**Speaker:**

**Prepared by:**

**Approved by:**

**Attachments:**

1. ETAB Draft - Ecusta Trail Rules and Etiquette

## Ecusta Trail Rules and Etiquette

<b>Rules &amp; Etiquette</b>
1. Respect private property. Stay on the trail.
2. The trail is open at all times, except for dangerous weather events or repairs.
3. Pedal-assist e-bikes are permitted.
4. Wheels yield to pedestrians.
5. Keep right except to pass.
6. Give audible warning before passing.
7. Stay alert & listen for approaching traffic. Decrease the volume of audio devices and keep one ear open.
8. Trail users should only park in designated areas.
9. Helmets are recommended for everyone on wheels but are required for children 16 years of age and under.
10. Bicycle light-use is required from dusk to dawn (both front and rear lights are recommended).
11. No devices shall be left on the trail unattended, unless parked in the appropriate parking places.
12. Do not block the trail. Pull off the trail when stopped.
13. Pets must be on a leash no longer than 6 feet and under control. Clean up after your pet.
14. Call 911 to report any emergency or suspicious activity.
15. Please report any vandalism, storm damage, or unsafe conditions immediately to <b>(pending FOET phone number?)</b>
16. Follow all posted regulatory signage.

<b>Prohibited Activities</b>
1. Littering and Vandalism
2. Tobacco and vaping use of any kind
3. Possession or consumption of open alcoholic beverages or any intoxicants
4. Killing, trapping, or harming wildlife
5. Fireworks
6. Selling, soliciting, or exhibiting materials without an appropriate permit.
7. Collection, removal, damage, or disturbance of any trail property, natural or cultural object
8. Horses
9. Camping
10. Prohibited vehicles include, but are not limited to: ATVs, UTVs, 4-wheelers, golf carts, and tagged vehicles, including scooters or mopeds. Note: individuals with a mobility disability have the right to use an Other Power-Driven Mobility Device (OPDMD).

None of these rules, regulations, or etiquette suggestions are to supersede state or federal law, infringe upon the rights of those protected by the Americans with Disabilities Act, or discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, or gender.

**STAFF REPORT**

**Ecusta Trail Advisory Board, Wednesday, April 23, 2025**

**Title:** Further Discussion of Trail Funding

**Speaker:**

**Prepared by:**

**Approved by:**

**Attachments:**