

## Landis backs Thread Trail

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By Shavonne Potts, [spotts@salisburypost.com](mailto:spotts@salisburypost.com)

LANDIS — The town board threw its support behind the Carolina Thread Trail project by signing a resolution this past week.

The Thread Trail is a 15-county regional network of trails and greenways designed for biking, walking and commuting. The goals of an enhanced quality of life and providing a place for people to connect to nature coincide with what the town has been working toward with its wilderness area at Lake Corriher.

"The board was very positive about the trail," said Town Manager Reed Linn.

Linn called the trail "very interesting."

The trail will link counties in both Carolinas.

"There are many benefits of the trail — connecting with neighboring communities and counties, serving as a conservation corridor and it will create jobs," said Randi Gates, community coordinator for the Carolina Thread Trail.

She said the trail will also help with economic development, especially when potential businesses are looking to relocate to the area.

"When businesses move into an area they are looking at the quality of life," she said.

The trail will also provide an avenue for free health and wellness opportunities through exercise and recreation, Gates said.

Gates presented these ideas and more to the board this past week during its meeting.

"It's an invitation to participate. We are working with citizens to plan and implement the trail," she said. Each community decides where the trail should be in their own area.

"It's a very public input driven process," Gates said.

By adopting the resolution, the town says it wants to connect with other communities that have supported the project.

Gates said the city of Salisbury is the only other community in Rowan that has joined in the project. Landis officials asked Gates to make a presentation at the meeting.

Gates guesses she will likely start the conversation with other communities within the year.

There are nine counties that have adopted the plan to identify the route out of the 15 that the plan is geared toward. Landis is No. 180 to sign on.

"We are now working on the adoption process in Iredell County, at end of the month, and in Union County," Gates said.

Resolutions of support have also come from other North and South Carolina counties, nonprofits and organizations.

No monetary contributions toward the trail have been implemented.

More than \$1.6 million in grants has been awarded to communities and more than 69 miles of trail already are being used. More than 900 miles of trails and greenway space could be used.

The grants are given to come up with a plan for the trail routes.

"Some are in the planning phase and others in the construction phase," Gates said.

In 2008, Linn and Alderman James Furr met with Thread Trail representatives to discuss the plan.

You can visit [www.carolinathreadtrail.org](http://www.carolinathreadtrail.org) for more information about the Carolina Thread Trail.

Contact reporter Shavonne Potts at 704-797-4253.

<http://www.salisburypost.com/News/071011-Landis-support-Carolina-Thread-Trail-gcd>