

future of a rail trail in town. Morgan seemingly has taken the selectmen's suggestion to heart and e-mailed a letter of interest to Donna Rich.

Selectmen briefly acknowledged the gesture during Tuesday's meeting but it will be up to Geller to approve Morgan's inclusion. It would be a mistake not to do so. This is the perfect opportunity for the two sides to hash out their differences in a place that's not Proctor Elementary where selectmen hold their meetings. Geller and others would like to build a 4-mile bike path on what was once railroad track through Topsfield. If completed, the path could connect to a proposed 20-mile trail that links several nearby communities.

There are some matters to be cleared up between the two. For one, when the two sides meet in March for a televised debate on the proposal, how are they going to work around the fact that Morgan could be a member of both sides? And does Morgan joining the TRTC make the debate irrelevant? Those are questions I'd like to see answered before the debate.

But while tensions between Geller and Morgan may be dying down, there's still some heat left between another coalition member, **Mike DeAmario**, and Geller. A series of e-mail exchanges between them have made their way into this week's selectmen's packet. In one of the e-mails, DeAmario called a letter to the editor Geller sent us last month a "cheap shot," against Morgan and all the abutters. He went on criticize Geller for creating his own political spin on the debate.

Clearly, there's still much to be discussed. But thankfully, it won't be done before selectmen.

I've been critical of Topsfield rail trail opponent **Bob Morgan** in the past. But this time, he deserves praise for offering to join the Topsfield Rail Trail Committee. Topsfield selectmen have implored Morgan (spokesman for the Coalition for Neighborhood Information) and Rail Trail proponent **Joe Geller** to get together with the idea of bridging the differences they have regarding the