

# Avon moves forward with trail project

BY RYAN PALENCER

ryan.palencer@flyergroup.com

AVON — The town council here recently took action that allows them to make progress on the completion of a trail between Kingsway Christian Church and Harvest Ridge subdivision by approving the use of Eagle Ridge to complete the study. They also approved the contract with Eagle Ridge to complete the preliminary design of the Lingerman Trail Design.

The trail is expected to follow the path of the Lingerman Drain, though it may not follow the existing waterway if other reasonable alternatives to create the link can be found. The trail will connect Harvest Ridge to Kingsway.

That segment of the project connects 12 or more subdivisions, along with the YMCA, to the Avon Town Hall Park. The Bike and Pedestrian plan approved previously by the council identified a trail from Harvest Ridge to the Town Hall Park in the nearest term — one to nine years.

In the 2010 budget, the town set aside \$27,500 for preliminary design of the segment. The proposed cost of the study is \$18,350.

In addition, Brock Ridgway has been working the last few years as the town's consultant to design trail and sidewalk connections. In addition to the town being pleased with Ridgway's work on other projects, his company — Eagle Ridge — is a local engineering firm.

The study will consist of a preliminary design and will generally identify a path for the trail. It will also identify potential constraints in building a trail.

One of the benefits is that it will allow the town to create a dialogue with property owners that might be affected by the construction of the trail. The proposal includes several meetings with potentially affected property owners.

This would give them a foundation to go and apply for transportation enhancement or potentially other funding that may be available.