

## **Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee Meeting - March 5, 2020**

Harvey Wheeler Community Center, Clock Tower Room

**Attendees:** Jim Lyon, Suzanne Knight, Carol Steele, John Soden, Marcia Rasmussen

**Members from the public:** Barbara Pike

**Recorder:** Carol Steele

Call to order: 7:02

Review Minutes from February 6, 2020. Minutes approved as is.

Phase 2A, 2B, 2C Updates:

1. **Phase 2A Update:** This phase of the trail has been completed and is open for all to enjoy!
2. **Phase 2B Update:** I've been contacted by Don Voghel of MIG Corporation indicating that they have been awarded the contract for Phase 2B of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail, and requesting the electronic files for the interpretive panels. The electronic files have not yet been created because the information has not yet been finalized. I will need authorization or assistance from either the BFRT Advisory Committee and/or the Concord Historical Commission to determine the information to be included in the panels. I have not yet heard from MassDOT about the scheduling of a pre-construction meeting.
3. **Phase 2C Updates** - Phase 2C of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail is being nominated for the American Public Works Association (APWA) Small Cities/Rural Communities Project of the Year Award! The project is in the \$5M-\$25M division and the Transportation category. This nomination comes from the New England chapter through Pam Marquis (MassDOT ROW Compliance Administrator / Awards Committee member) and Rich Benevento (World Tech President / APWA Chapter Delegate & past winner). I've been working with GPI Project Manager Matt Kearney to prepare the application for award which was submitted to the American Public Works Association earlier this week. The full application has been posted to the Committee's webpage and can be viewed here:  
<https://www.concordma.gov/2565/APWA-Small-CitiesRural-Communities-Proje>.

The grant application to purchase and install two bike 'shelters' that will accommodate 22 bicycles to be installed near the commuter rail parking lot along the trail was submitted by the deadline of December 20<sup>th</sup>. We were informed by the MPO staff on February 28<sup>th</sup> that our project has been recommended for funding under the Community Connections program for FFY21 TIP. It is expected that the MPO will vote to include these projects in the FFYs [2021-25](#) TIP sometime in the spring.

Additionally, the following items from last month's update have been completed or are still on the list to be done.

- a) The final interpretive panel has been installed at the intersection of Main Street and Commonwealth Ave.
  - b) I'll be working with Concord Public Works and Natural Resources Division staff this month to identify and plan for additional landscaping, fencing, signage and other amenities along the rail corridor (addressing the list of items from last month's update memo).
4. **Phase 2D Sudbury:** I met with Environmental Planner Beth Suedmeyer this week to discuss and share lessons learned from Phase 2C design and permitting, as she continues to move this phase of the project forward in Sudbury. We also discussed the need to share files/information from the 100% design plans prepared for that portion of the trail in Concord that continues from Powder Mill Road to the Sudbury town line and the potential for additional parking on town land off Powder Mill Road.

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## **Operations and Maintenance**

### **1.Literature Box**

Marcia reported that a Literature Box will be installed in the big kiosk on Main Street. It will contain maps, historical information, and other printed information for people using the trail.

### **2.Plaque for Pond Crossing**

Plans are being developed for a historical plaque on the pond side of the Gerow house property. It will describe information about the area, such as Jim Moran's description of the "White Lady" house and the prison cemetery. Judy Perrin may help in the design of the plaque.

### **3.Committee Membership for 2020**

The committee discussed membership issues because John Soden, Suzanne Knight, and Jim Lyon have now completed their terms. The Select Board felt that meetings of the BFRTAC should continue through 2022 or at least until Phase 2B is complete.

John Soden said that he would stay on. Suzanne agreed to stay on for an extra month or two if needed. Jim said he will continue to head up the committee, if necessary. Members agreed to try to recruit new people for this next year.

### **4.General Committee Discussion**

- Marcia stated that the town is working on signs for West Concord Junction that clearly specify the legal Rail Trail parking area.

- She also reported that Porta Potties will be installed in the West Concord Cultural District. Looking at additional parking. There are 36 spaces, some 3 hour and some all day parking.

- "Go Out Doors," the outdoor art installation project for the rail trail, is fully funded and moving ahead. It is headed up by Nancy Lippe and Margo Kimball.

### **5. Public Comment**

Barbara Pike brought up the 16 parking spaces by the bridge in West Concord. Wondering if curb can be changed for easier handicap access.

Meeting adjourned at 7:47

Next Committee Meeting: July 8, 2020  
via Zoom or Harvey Wheeler Community Center at 7 pm