

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee  
Thursday March 7, 2019  
Harvey Wheeler Community Center

Meeting called to order 7:04pm

Committee members present: Jim Lyon, Kent Carlson, Carol Steele, Suzanne Knight and John Soden

Also in attendance: Barbara Pike, Marcia Rasmussen, Dean Sullender, Judy Perrin, Ken Perrin

Recorder: John Soden

1. Minutes approved as is.
2. Phase 2A, 2B, 2C update.

**Phase 2A Update:**

This phase of the trail construction has been completed and is open for all to enjoy!

**Phase 2B Update:**

100% design plans were submitted to MassDOT on Wednesday, February 6th and have been posted to the BFRT Advisory Committee's web page as of February 14th. Please review. Also, please let me know if Advisory Committee members would like copies of the plans (at 11" x 17" format or individual sheets at 24" x 36").

Department of Corrections contact information was sent to MassDOT Highway Division Right-of-Way to help with obtaining a temporary easement to allow construction of the wildlife corridor under Route 2.

I've reached out to the designer of the Assabet River sign panel for assistance with the one historic interpretive panel desired for this phase of the trail; she'll be available to work on this at the end of March/April. The proposed concept for this panel was to identify and celebrate residential life in the mid-1900's based on input from a former Commonwealth Ave. resident.

GPI has informed me that the permitting fees appear to be higher than anticipated for Phase 2B; they are working with agencies to see if these fees can be reduced. If necessary, previously allocated CPA funds may be needed to be used (which will reduce funds available for signs (rules and Concord on Tap) and bike shelter/additional bike racks).

**Phase 2C Updates:**

- a) I met with Eagle Scout candidate Nolan Roberts on-site on February 21st to review potential locations for the Fix-it station; identified a good location on the westerly side of the trail about 100-feet set back from Main Street.
- b) The interpretive sign panels are being reviewed by Town staff with input from the designer of the Assabet River/Scenic River sign panel and will be reaching out to the fabricator of that panel on behalf of the Contractor.
- c) Town staff is waiting for construction meetings to resume and construction to be substantially completed before scheduling any ribbon-cutting event for the rail trail. Although completion is

expected this spring, setting a date for May or June will require input from Town officials, MassDOT and the contractor along with the schedules of any State officials invited to attend.

### **Phase 2D Sudbury:**

Information received from Sudbury Select Board member Len Simon was submitted on February 12th and is provided here:

Once again, Len reports that the Town of Sudbury has taken further steps in bringing the BFRT to Sudbury. In summary, the project is moving forward again; 1) with the design fully funded, 2) with the State as applicant, and, 3) with legal issues clarified.

First, the State is now the applicant for all purposes for the BFRT (2D), instead of the Town. That change is important because the design and review will not be subject to compliance with the local wetlands bylaw. This had stalled design activity, but will no longer be the case. On January 28, with the State in attendance as the applicant, the Conservation Commission voted to say they had sufficient information from the prior ORAD to determine if the required borings and test pits for the 25% design could go forward.

On Saturday, February 9, five of the Conservation Commissioners, 4 selectmen, the town's environmental planner, Susan McArthur from MDOT, 3 representatives from Jacobs engineering, Dick Williamson and Len attended a site walk on the BFRT to the locations where the borings and test pits need to be dug, and to assess access points. On February 11th, the Conservation Commission, with almost everyone noted above in attendance, plus Sudbury town counsel, voted to allow Jacobs to proceed with borings and test pits at Hop Brook, Pantry Brook and the boardwalk area. These WPA 'exempt' activities will allow Sudbury to get the data needed to complete the 25% design and submit to DOT for comment and approval. This part of the 25% design process had been delayed for about 3 years. Len anticipates that the borings and test pits will be completed by early April and the data submitted to MDOT for comment and approval. Then, MDOT will schedule the Design Public Hearing date and the project will advance.

As noted previously, \$650,000 for funding to complete the 75% and 100% designs was approved in October 2018, so the design should continue uninterrupted. An RFP for that engineering work should be signed by May.

Len also mentioned that earlier in February, Sudbury applied for a new \$300,000 MassTrails grant from DCR to be used toward purchase of the CSX corridor and should learn whether the grant is approved by August. This is in addition to the \$100,000 grant Sudbury was awarded last year under DCR's Recreational Trails Grant program.

### 3. Operations & Maintenance

Jim spoke with Delia about the widening and construction of trail near Powder Mill Rd section of the trail. She advised that there is public access but that modification to the area is not allowed. The town will monitor.

The Friends have offered to provide Rules signs for the trail. A sign count needs to be made and the given to Barbara Pike. It has been noted that stone dust on the trail apron at the 2A bridge is eroding and the question has arisen whether the same stone dust is specified for the 2B bridge.

### 4. Phase 2B/2c Route 2/Commonwealth Ave

The issue of the width of trail on Route 2 bridge of 12' in the final design versus the Town Meeting agreed 10' width was discussed. Kent expressed the view that the wider trail coming off the bridge is safer than narrowing as cyclists come off the bridge. The committee agreed and unanimously endorsed 12' trail width on bridge and the Concord section of 2B as designed.

#### 5. Brochures and Map

Jim had modified the brochure that the Acton police developed about the trail. In place of "Users should not yell at slower users" insert, "Please alert other users when passing." Kent raised the idea of sponsorship of the brochure by making it a bit larger for sponsor logos. The sense of the committee is to consider sponsorship for future printings of the brochure. The url needs to be added to the brochure so users can download.

Marcia offered for her staff to take the first cut at the revised brochure and associated map.

#### 6. Member Comments/Committee Liaisons/Correspondence

No liaisons or correspondence to report. Kent commented that the bids for the lease on the Club Car Cafe build were submitted about 5 weeks ago.

7. Next committee meeting: Thursday April 4,2019.

8. Public comment:

The meeting adjourned at 8:24pm.