

# **Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee Meeting**

May 2, 2019

Harvey Wheeler Community Center, Clock Tower Room, 7pm

Attendees: Jim Lyon, Suzanne Knight, Carol Steele

Also in attendance: Dean Sullender, Barbara Pike, Marcia Rasmussen, Bill Schinelle, Ray Phillips

Recorder: Suzanne Knight

Call to order: 7:05pm

## **1. Review Minutes from April 4, 2019 meeting, approved.**

## **2. Phase 2A, 2B, 2C Update**

1. Phase 2A Update: This phase of the trail construction has been completed and is open for all to enjoy!

2. Phase 2B Update: Final comments from MassDOT and other state agencies were received by GPI Consulting Engineer and Project Manager Matt Kearney. GPI anticipates completing the PS&E plans by the end of May and is currently working to finalize the submittal of the Notice of Intent under the Wetlands Protection and Rivers Protection Acts.

3. Phase 2C Updates:

a) Keolis is again working on the trail crossing of the commuter rail line (finally). This work needs to be completed before D.W.White (contractor for Phase 2C of the BFRT) is able to complete their work in Concord, and is part of the reason this project has been delayed.

b) Landscaping was installed on Tuesday, April 30 in the Junction Park extension location. The materials requested for the south side of the Main Street/Commonwealth Ave. intersection (opposite Junction Park) were not approved or authorized. I am hoping to coordinate with Concord Public Works, the Green Thumbs and Garden Club to complete the landscaping work this May (using some of the CPA funds allocated for the BFRT).

c) D.W. White worked with the Garden Club members and me on Tuesday, April 30 to relocate the Kevin Smith Bench to the westerly side of the trail (Dance Prism building) and remove grass from the easterly area to be landscaped later this month. The bench is integrated with concrete sono-tubes; there will not be a poured concrete pad for the bench. We might consider using stone dust or other material next to the bench where there is potential for wear. The Garden Club members suggested planting low-grow fragrant sumac behind the bench, extending the planting up the slope. It has also been suggested to plant Comptonia peregrina, or Sweetfern, in the area behind the metal benches on the easterly side of the trail to reduce maintenance concerns. The Garden Club also hopes to plant the areas closest to the sidewalk with plants similar to those planted in the Junction Park extension to unify and beautify this 'entrance' to West Concord Village.

\* Marcia indicated that DW White has been terrific with preparing the land for planting.

d) Comments and suggested edits to the Concord portion of the BFRT map were submitted by Barbara Pike from the Friends of the BFRT. This information and highlighted map were sent to the Town's GIS Analyst Jill Moonheron for further edits of the map – I hope to have copies with me on Thursday if Jill is able to make the changes in time. I will also take any additional

comments/input from the committee members at the meeting.

e) Committee members were asked to review the draft Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety brochure that was distributed at the last meeting. No comments were sent to me – does this mean everything is okay with the brochure? Please bring any suggested revisions or edits with you on Thursday.

f) A request from an abutting property owner to construct stairs or steps from the gate at the back of their property to the trail for safety reasons cannot be done through the current MassDOT contract (there is no provision for this item or funds available in the contract). This information has been relayed to the property owner.

g) Following up on the proposed Eagle Scout project to install a Bicycle Fix-it station – I've asked Nolan Roberts to prepare a memo that explains what a Fix-it station is, the intended location, how it will be installed (i.e., with volunteer assistance?), an estimate of how much it will cost and how those funds will be raised so I can submit the information to the Select Board for their acceptance (any gift valued over \$500 must be accepted by the Select Board).

h) Three Concord-On-Tap sign posts will be ordered this month; I am coordinating with Janet Rothrock to obtain an updated water map to install in the posts.

4. Phase 2D Sudbury: I didn't reach out to Sudbury in time for an update to Phase 2D.

### **3. Operations and Maintenance**

-Marcia indicated that the owner of the garage at 17 Beharrell Street (next to the Post Office) is considering offering some of the property for restrooms.

-Wes Rush has offered possible parking spaces in West Concord. Easements would be needed for this to happen.

-A bike route sign was taken down in Junction Park to reduce confusion.

-A resident from Jenny Dugan suggested that a non-flashing light be placed at Williams road. Marcia replied that it was not in the plan. After the trail opens, residents can contact the town with their concerns.

-Concern over use of herbicides was addressed by Marcia and reported that some were used at portions of the trail to remove certain invasive plants, by a certified invasive control specialist.

-The fence by Sanborn school no longer has a purpose and will be removed by the town.

### **4. Brochures and Map**

-Thanks to Heather Carey for developing the brochure for the BFRT..

-Barbara Pike and Marcia worked on the map. Some suggestions were provided by Committee members.

-Marcia reported that if parking at Powder Mill Road becomes an issue, the town may open up a small parking lot. Land has been gifted to the Town for this purpose.

-Minute Man bike rental is currently set up to operate in West Concord

-There will be mile markers on the trail.

### **5. Member Comments/Committee Liaisons/Correspondence**

-Resident Priscilla Clark asked for signage to warn people about coyotes and to keep their dogs on leashes. There will be no signs posted until the town hears of an issue and then it is possible that a temporary sign could be put up.

-Jim contacted Phoebe Hamm and let her know of possible trail opening date. She was informed her books could not be sold at the celebration of the Rail Trail opening, but other suggestions were offered by the committee to her.

-No committee reports.

**6. Next Committee Meeting: Thursday June 6, 2019**

**-Note that the July meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 10<sup>th</sup>.**

**7. Public Comment**

-Thank you for Barbara Pike for providing a large map to be used at the West Concord meeting on May 8th.

-The ribbon cutting will occur sometime in June or early July.

-Marcia and Barbara will work with the town to select a location.

-Jim will work with Barbara for Committee input on the celebration

Meeting Adjourned at 7:59