

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee
Thursday September 3, 2020
Meeting held via Zoom

- 1) Meeting called to order 7:05pm
Committee members present: Jim Lyon, Carol Steele, Richard Fahlander, Nat Welch and John Soden
Also in attendance: Marcia Rasmussen, Terri Ackerman, Carmen Jaquier, Barbara Pike, Janie Dresser and Len Simon
- 2) Minutes approved as amended.
- 3) Phase 2A, 2B, 2C, 2D Update by Marcia Rasmussen, Director DPLM
Full copy of her Memo to the BFRT Advisory Committee is attached at the end of these minutes.
 - Phase 2B Update:
 - The MassDOT report dated through August 14, 2020 notes that work during week 7 was mainly installation of bridge pilings on the east side of the Nashoba Brook in Concord, and that track removal in Acton and Concord was completed.
 - The new Curator of the Special Collections, Anke Voss, who has provided links to several oral histories and will begin researching the Town's archives and collections for charts, photographs, maps, and other memorabilia for the interpretive panel. West Concord residents Nancy Crowley and Suzanne Knight will be meeting with Marcia on September 10th to discuss how best to present life in this area in the early to mid-1900's.
 - Phase 2C Updates -
 - The town is working on replacement of the dead trees along Phase 2C. Following up with the contractor about replacing the trees since they are under warranty, but this may have been delayed due to the pandemic
 - About \$6,000 remains from the Community Preservation funds appropriated in 2018 for additional work along the rail trail and small projects are being identified that need attention, such as signage, plantings, pavement and fencing.
 - **Final ½ mile of 2C is now its own category**
 - Concord has entered a contract with Greenmen-Pedersen, Inc. ("GPI") to renew the Notice of Intent under the Wetland Protection Act and prepare construction drawings and **specifications for the last ½ mile in Concord. This contract**

amount is for \$39,000, of which \$30,000 was funded through the Community Preservation funds appropriated in 2018. That contract and purchase order was finalized just this week.

- **A site walk to review the final ½ mile is scheduled for later in September (9/24/20, 8:00am).** Of particular interest are the proposed fence locations and the proposed “slope armoring” near White Pond that was noted in the 2016 design package. The question of fencing has been raised in several venues by residents, cyclists and committee members
 - The Town will be working with GPI to finalize the locations and the fence details in the construction bid package.
 - The 75% design drawings can be found at <https://concordma.gov/990/Phase-2C-75-Design-Plan>.
- Phase 2D Sudbury:
 - The 25% design public hearing on Phase 2D of the BFRT was held on Thursday, July 16th.
 - Sudbury is finalizing the RFP \ to prepare 100% and PS&E plans for the 2D portion of the trail in Sudbury.

4) Operations & Maintenance

The Commission on Disabilities has expressed concerns about lack of masks by trail users and also failure of riders to adequately let those in wheelchairs and otherwise incapacitated that they are passing. Richard attended a Commission meeting to support solving their concerns. Signs have now been placed at entry points stating that trail users are required to wear masks among other things. ‘Wait a minute, man.’

Dori Kehoe from the Green Thumbs again expressed concern that riders are failing to walk their bikes thru Junction Park. Marcia indicated that a new series of signs are being developed for the park reminding riders to walk. Also, the Safety Officer has been brought into discussions about enforcing this rule.

Jim received a concern from a resident about the lack of parking, trash bins, porta-potties for the public art installation, Go Out Doors, along the path.

5) BFRT Phase 2B/2C Map

The Friends have a map of Phase 1 thru 2A. This map needs to be revised to include 2B and 2C. We will follow up in this in the Fall.

6) Membership

Jim announced that Nat Welch has been sworn in as a committee member and that Nancy Stone will join the committee in October replacing him.

7) Elections

Richard and Nat were proposed as co-chairs of the committee. the proposal was seconded and passed unanimously. The issue of a recorder or sharing of the minute taking duties among other members will be considered later.

8) Member Comments/Committee Liaisons/Correspondence

John attended the monthly Chairs' Breakfast. Richard attended a Commission on Disabilities meeting

9) Public comment:

There was a discussion about the proposed footbridge across the Assabet River connecting the Baker Avenue commercial complex with West Concord depot. There could be an opportunity to tie in this bridge to an improved pedestrian crossing at the Baker Ave lights.

Janie Dertler, Sudbury town staff and Len Simon, former Sudbury Select Board member, attended and expressed appreciation for the cooperation with the Committee. They also said that a purchase agreement has been entered into for the remaining right of way section for the train in Sudbury.

Teri Ackerman said that she might not be the Select board liaison with the committee the next term and expressed her appreciation working with the committee should she not continue as liaison.

10) The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Next Committee Meeting: October 1, 2020

Minutes Submitted by: John Soden



TOWN OF CONCORD

Department of Planning and Land Management

141 Keyes Road - Concord, MA - 01742

Phone: 978-318-3290

MEMORANDUM

To: Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee
From: Marcia Rasmussen, Director DPLM
Re: **Update of Phases 2A, 2B, 2C, the last ½ mile of 2C and 2D**
Date: September 3, 2020

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

2. **Phase 2B Update:** MassDOT has not scheduled any formal update meetings with Town staff. Natural Resources Director Delia Kaye receives the weekly Environmental Monitoring reports, which are posted on the BFRT Advisory Committee's web page, here: <https://concordma.gov/1830/Monthly-Updates>. The latest report dated through August 14, 2020 notes that work during week 7 was mainly installation of bridge pilings on the east side of the Nashoba Brook in Concord, and that track removal in Acton and Concord was completed.

With regard to the information and graphics for the interpretive panel, I've reached out to the new Curator of the Special Collections, Anke Voss, who has provided links to several oral histories and will begin researching the Town's archives and collections for charts, photographs, maps, and other memorabilia. West Concord residents Nancy Crowley and Suzanne Knight will be meeting with me on September 10th to discuss the information received to date and ideas for how best to present life in this area in the early to mid-1900's.

3. **Phase 2C Updates** - During the site walk for Phase 2B, I was able to talk with MassDOT landscape architect Stephanie Smoot about replacement of the dead trees along Phase 2C. She was going to follow up with the contractor about replacing the trees since they are under warranty, but this may have been delayed due to the pandemic. I will confirm this with Stephanie this month.

There remains approximately \$6,000 from the Community Preservation funds appropriated in 2018 for additional work along the rail trail. I am working with Natural Resources Director Delia Kaye and CPW Highway & Grounds Supervisor Aaron Miklosko to identify several small projects that need attention, such as signage, plantings, pavement and fencing.

- 4. The last ½ mile of Phase 2C** - now has its own category. After my conversation with BFRT Phase 2D MassDOT Project Manager Eamon Kernan, Concord has entered a contract with Greenmen-Pedersen, Inc. to renew the Notice of Intent under the Wetland Protection Act and prepare construction drawings and specifications **for the last ½ mile in Concord. This contract amount is for \$39,000**, of which \$30,000 was funded through the Community Preservation funds appropriated in 2018. That contract and purchase order was finalized just this week. GPI Project Manager Matt Kearney will be working with GPI staff to schedule the survey crews to update the wetlands flagging.

Additionally, Matt Kearney, Delia Kaye and I will be scheduling a site walk for later in September to review the project, with particular attention to the proposed fence locations and the proposed “slope armoring” near White Pond that was noted in the 2016 design package. The question of fencing has been raised in several venues by residents, cyclists and committee members. On the 75% design plans, there are four types of fence proposed at various locations **along this ½ mile portion of the trail** - a 6-ft. ornamental fence; a 6-ft. chain link fence (black, powder-coated); a 42” ht. two rail, timber fence and a 48” ht. 3-rail timber fence. Design details for the timber fence were included in the 75% drawings; the ornamental and chain link fence were part of the special provisions and were not detailed at the 75% design phase. The Town will be working with GPI to finalize the locations and the fence details in the construction bid package. The 75% design drawings are still on the Town’s website for the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee and can be found here: <https://concordma.gov/990/Phase-2C-75-Design-Plan>.

- 5. Phase 2D Sudbury:** The 25% design public hearing on Phase 2D of the BFRT was held on Thursday, July 16th. The question of fencing in Concord was raised at that time, which is the reason for the information found in the paragraph above.

Sudbury Environmental Planner Beth Suedmeyer is finalizing the RFP for a consultant to prepare 100% and PS&E plans for the 2D portion of the trail in Sudbury, which should be out for bid this fall.

