

review of contract hours and costs, culminating with the final contract signed in late August. During this time, the BFRTAC reviewed the 25% design plans for Phase 2C. The Committee generated a list of questions and comments to submit to GPI to facilitate the start of the 100% design. In addition, four site walks were held at various locations along the trail to collect citizen input.

Regarding West Concord center, GPI is working with the baseline design that utilizes the railroad spur and gated vehicular crossing at Commonwealth Ave. Representatives from the Town of Concord met with representatives from the MBTA regarding a possible trail crossing at the pedestrian crossing of the commuter rail line located near the West Concord Depot. Though the BFRTAC has been told repeatedly by the MBTA that the trail is not allowed to cross at this location, we continue to try to persuade officials at the MBTA to change their mind. A design firm, Louis Berger, has been retained to produce some sketch plans to show how this existing crossing could be gated to improve safety. The sketch plans will be presented to the MBTA for one final attempt to gain approval for using this crossing. Louis Berger has significant rail design experience and interaction with the MBTA. In the chance that approval is obtained from the MBTA, crossing at the West Concord Depot location would be added to the rail trail design.

The highway division of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) continued the 25% design of Phase 2B. The design team of AECOM/FST is evaluating two possible options for a bridge crossing over Route 2. One option follows the exact alignment of the railroad right-of-way and crosses Route 2 at an angle with the highway. The second option has a bridge crossing that is perpendicular to the highway. The first option is more expensive due to the longer bridge length, however the second option has more environmental impact as it requires longer, curved approach ramps within wetland buffer zones and would require a permanent easement across Department of Corrections land. Representatives from the Town of Concord have attended meetings with AECOM/FST and MassDOT to provide input and to monitor the progress of this design.

The BFRTAC continues to participate in the Boston Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) process

for allocating federal transportation dollars. This past year, the Long Range Transportation Plan was updated by the MPO and the BFRT continues to remain in the plan for construction in the time band of FY 2021-2025. When the 100% design is complete, the Town will approach the MPO with the hopes of constructing the trail in an earlier funding year.

This year, the Selectmen extended the term of the BFRTAC for an additional three years with phased Committee appointments. In 2012, the BFRT design work will be ongoing. In addition, the BFRTAC will continue outreach and communication with other Town committees, citizens and businesses along the trail.

WHITE POND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Chris Leary, Chair
Arra Avakian
David Caruso
Jerry Frenkil
Jim Lyons

The White Pond Advisory Committee (WPAC) was established in 1973 as an advisory and liaison committee to review and analyze the concerns of the White Pond watershed and play a leadership role in stewardship of the pond and its environs. White Pond was described by Thoreau as the “Gem of the Woods”; today, it remains a prime Town resource for passive recreation and fishing.

White Pond Reservation

Efforts have evolved over the years from the Committee’s concern about the Town-owned property known as White Pond Reservation, located on the southwest shore of the Pond and extending back over forty acres to the Sudbury border. There is currently no management plan in place for this spectacular property since its acquisition by the Town in 1992. WPAC continues its working relationship with the Division of Natural Resources (DNR) to encourage the proper use of this area, along with Town officials promoting this valuable resource to Town residents.

Comprehensive Pond Management Plan

In 2011, a Community Preservation Act (CPA) application for a comprehensive White Pond Watershed management plan was approved by the Town. In 2012, the WPAC looks forward to the selection of a consultant

and the development of a plan that will provide baseline data on the health of the pond, a program for maintaining the ongoing water quality, quantify issues associated with private land ownership within the White Pond watershed, and a position on the recreational uses and limitations of the Pond. The Town made this application on behalf of the WPAC and the plan is being carried out by the DNR. The WPAC feels this plan is of the utmost importance to ensure that White Pond and its watershed will maintain its clear waters for the enjoyment of future generations.

Building and Renovations in the White Pond Area

A continuing responsibility of the WPAC is to work with the Building Commissioner and Town Committees in review and advice in regards to new construction (e.g., additions, landscape changes, etc.) in the White Pond Watershed to ensure that the health of the pond and its environs is preserved. A number of these reviews were performed and the committee approved each. Of particular concern to the WPAC is any activity that would have an adverse affect on the quality of the Pond water and surrounding habitat.

Solar Siting Committee

One of the potential sites identified by the Solar Siting Committee is the White Pond Reservation. In the opinion of the WPAC, a large scale solar installation would severely and negatively impact White pond and the surrounding environs. The WPAC engaged in discussions with the Solar Siting Committee and communicated concerns about the potential negative impact on the Pond and surrounding habitat that would result from clearing such a large portion of the reservation and building a large scale solar installation.

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (BFRT)

The WPAC has been involved in discussions surrounding the BFRT, to ensure that the Pond is properly protected given that the proposed trail passes closely to White Pond. WPAC is working with the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee and other groups such as Concord based Friends of Rural Trails and the Friends of the BFRT. WPAC feels it is important to elevate awareness of the impacts of the trail construction, activities, and increased visitor traffic on the health and aesthetics of the Pond, and on the wildlife corridor, while encouraging Town usage of this great asset.

AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

James Catterton, Chair
Charles Poutasse, Clerk
Jennifer Verrill
Jennifer Hashley
Kenney

Since our formation as a Town committee in 2006, the Agricultural Committee has worked to promote agriculture in Concord.

This year's growing season was as close to "normal" as we get around here. There was fairly regular rainfall through the season. Most farmers had a very good year. Tropical Storm Irene put a dent in the tomato season in late August with high winds and some rain. This was followed by a mild fall, with first frost in early October, snow in late October, and no serious freezes until late November.

Retail sales were strong. Concord's three new CSAs (Community Supported Agriculture) Kenney Farm, Salt Box Farm and Bare Root Farm were successful.

Ag Day

The Committee sponsored a sixth farmers' market festival in September on the Milldam, with a good turnout and good sales on a beautiful Labor Day Weekend Saturday. "Ag Day" remains popular with townspeople and visitors and worthwhile for growers.

Guide to the Farm stands of Concord

We are continuing to distribute this informative brochure. It is a useful guide for residents and visitors alike.

Stone Soup Dinner

The fourth Stone Soup Dinner again featured Concord grown produce prepared by Concord chefs. This was once again a huge success. The event was held in September at Verrill Farm. Many hands were involved in food preparation and service for more than 300 who ate very well.

The Stone Soup Dinner has its own Board and operates on its own. It made three "Plant a Farmer" grants in 2011 to help new farmers in Town.

Agricultural Drainage Ditches

Led by Committee member Chip Poutasse, farmers at 9 Acre Corner hired a ditch dredger and opened the ditch that drains Willow Guzzle. The ditch has been clogged