

tion in this program continues to provide tremendous benefits to our Town.

Projects Requiring Historical Commission Review

As usual, the Historical Commission was asked to review applications for the construction of cell towers in Town. Our review process evaluates the impact of new or expanded cell towers on the immediate neighborhood as well as their potential for disrupting historic views.

The Committee approved a renewal of the lease for the Harrington House and initiated an application for National Register designation for the house. Obtaining National Register status for this house has been a long standing goal of the Commission.

We were asked to review potential street names for the Longview Meadow development. When it is possible and appropriate, we recommend that streets reference some aspect of the history of the area. We reviewed progress on the renovations of Fowler Library as per the Community Preservation Committee's grant.

The Committee continues to review and respond to requests for historical house markers in Concord and West Concord.

BRUCE FREEMAN RAIL TRAIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Judith LaRocca, Chair
Harry Beyer
Gerard Boyle
James E. Coutre
Kenneth C. Miller
Barbara Pike
James B. Terry

The Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee (BFRTAC) focused on the completion of the West Concord Alternatives Analysis, the advancement of the design of Phase 2A, 2B and 2C, and the continued communication with surrounding communities regarding common trail issues.

In February, the BFRTAC completed the alternatives analysis and held a public information meeting regarding the trail crossing of the Fitchburg commuter rail in West Concord. The solution chosen utilizes the railroad spur and trail users cross the commuter rail at the gated crossing on Commonwealth Avenue.

Lt. Governor Tim Murray and State Senator Jamie Eldridge announced the federal and State funding award of \$931,500 to complete the design of Phases 2A and 2C. This award, combined with the previous allocation of \$500,000 of fiscal year 2009 State Transportation Enhancement funds provides enough money to complete the MassDOT 75% design submission and review, and 100% design submission. A Request for Qualifications was advertised. A selection committee comprised of town staff from Acton, Westford and Concord reviewed the submissions and a design firm was chosen. A design kick-off meeting will be held in early 2011. Throughout the past summer and fall, the BFRTAC reviewed the previously approved 25% design plans of Phase 2C to prepare for this kick-off meeting.

In the past, the Phase 2B segment of the trail that includes the Route 2 crossing was part of the Route 2 Rotary project. In late October, MassDOT chose to separate Phase 2B from the rotary project and fund the design of Phase 2B to the 25% Design level. MassDOT has designated a design firm for Phase 2B. The BFRTAC will provide input regarding the many design elements of Phase 2B of the trail.

In 2011, the BFRTAC will continue its outreach to the community and businesses along the trail as the design of both Phase 2B and Phase 2C moves forward.

