

BRUCE FREEMAN RAIL TRAIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee (BFRTAC) focused on the 100% design for the Concord portion of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail and the 25% design Route 2 crossing that connects Acton with Concord.

Article 39, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire the former railroad right-of-way for use as a multi-use trail, passed at the 2012 Town Meeting.



From left: Barbara Pike, Judith LaRocca, Chair; James Terry, Kent Carlson, Polly Titcomb, James Coutre; not pictured: Gerry Boyle, Alan Whitney

The BFRTAC reviewed design options and specifications for the bridges and tunnel and provided feedback to Mass DOT with the Committee's functional and aesthetic preferences for these structures.

Regarding West Concord center, the 25% supplemental submittal for the baseline design that utilizes the railroad spur and gated vehicular crossing at Commonwealth Ave. was completed. In parallel, a design firm was retained to produce sketch plans to show how the existing pedestrian crossing at the West Concord Depot could be gated to improve safety. Representatives from Concord and the MBTA held an onsite meeting to discuss the sketch plans. As an action item from this meeting, the BFRTAC is exploring one additional alternative at the MBTA's request.

The highway division of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) entered into a contract with a contracted design team to complete the design of the BFRT-bridge crossing of Route 2. The proposed bridge follows the alignment of the railroad right-of-way and crosses Route 2 at an angle with the highway.

In addition, representatives from the Town of Concord met with representatives of MCI Concord to discuss easements, parking, fencing, and other issues where the trail abuts Department of Correction property.

Construction funding for Acton was advanced to FY 2014. Concord remains in the FY 2021-2025 construction time band, but it is hoped that the Concord portion will also be advanced as the design progresses.

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 acting as steward for 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

Many efforts have evolved over the years from the Committee's concern about the Town-owned property known as White Pond Reservation. It is located on the southwest shore of the Pond, extending back over forty acres of woods and trails to the Sudbury border. While it has been proposed before, there is currently no management plan in place for this spectacular property since its acquisition by the Town in 1992. The 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 2013, 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