



TOWN OF CONCORD

Department of Planning and Land Management

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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: November 4, 2021

1. **Phase 2A Update:** This phase of the trail has been completed and is open for all to enjoy!
2. **Phase 2B Update:** The base asphalt course has been installed on the approaches to the bridge; final asphalt will not be placed until next spring. Ledge was discovered at one of the bio-retention basin locations which means the area is not suitable as a bio-retention basin. Alternatives are being reviewed by GPI and Concord Natural Resources staff. Additionally, the contractor is waiting on delivery of wood fence materials to begin installation of wood fencing.
3. **Phase 2C Updates:** The BFRTAC Charge has been amended by the Select Board to consider Junction Park issues and revise the membership of the BFRTAC.

Additionally, I prepared a memorandum for the Select Board dated October 12, 2021 regarding the history and timeline of the Lowell Secondary Track taking, the BFRT and Junction Park, which includes links to existing documents and excerpts from various reports, Public Works Commission meeting minutes, CPW staff memos and plans, Town Meeting votes, MassDOT correspondence, etc. This information is available on the Town's BFRTAC web page.

Also, BFRTAC member Deborah Adleman and I met to review E-Bike information available, history of the discussions by earlier Advisory Committee members regarding the prohibition of motorized vehicles on the trail, and some of the issues with new technologies and ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliance. Deborah will be working with me to prepare background information for the BFRTAC to review and discuss at a future meeting.

4. **The last ½ mile of Phase 2C:** There has been no response from MassDOT to clarify its' position on the fencing questions posed by the Town's consultant. Also, I will be presenting the BFRT additional funding request to the Community Preservation Committee next Tuesday evening via Zoom.
5. **Phase 2D Sudbury:** I did not have time to follow up with Sudbury in time for this meeting.
6. **Community Connections Grant follow up:** CPW Highway and Grounds Superintendent Aaron Miklosko has given his assurance that the installation of the bike shelters and storage racks will be completed by the December 31, 2021 deadline.

7. **Concord Prison Cemetery:** On October 21st, Co-chairs Nat Welch and Richard Fahlander, Concord Historical Commission member Michael Capizzi, Doctor Patricia Ruze, Dept. of Corrections Director of Resource Management Jeffrey Quick and I walked along the current trail and visited the existing prison cemetery to discuss possible connection and recognition of the site along the BFRT. We learned that there were approximately 126 people buried in this cemetery and that the graves are marked with a simple stone with a number; we discussed possible ways to recognize this part of Concord's history. Members of Concord Prison Outreach have begun a project to name the un-named, providing identification of the people buried in this location, one as recently as 1996. Next steps are to obtain a quote from GPI to design a handicapped accessible path from the BFRT to a location next to the cemetery where a bench and information sign could be installed, approximately 800 feet west of the current parking area on Commonwealth Ave.



Left photo taken from top of slope looking toward Route 2; Right photo taken near BFRT looking up slope.

