

Delivered via email  
November 4, 2022

Mr. Matthew Johnson, Chair  
Town of Concord Select Board

Dear Mr. Johnson,

As you know, the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee (BFRTAC) was established by the Concord Select Board to provide guidance regarding the design and operation of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail in Concord.

At our recent October 24<sup>th</sup> meeting, a quorum of the BFRTAC deliberated publicly on the issue of developing uniform rules (and signage) for the BFRT in Concord that are consistent with all the other towns along the trail. Based on the results of a September meeting of those towns (sponsored by the FoBFRT), a set of uniform rules was proposed as well as three options for posting them (see a copy of the letter dated September 21, 2022 below)

By unanimous vote, the BFRTAC recommends that the Select Board approve the posting of uniform rules in the form described as “Option #2” proposed by the multitown meeting and detailed in the attached letter.

Thank you for your swift consideration of this recommendation and for your ongoing commitment to the success of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail.

Sincerely,  
(signed)

Adrienne Boardman  
Nathaniel Welch  
Co-chairs, Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee, on behalf of the committee

cc: Terri Ackerman, BFRTAC Liaison & Member, Select Board, Town of Concord  
Marcia Rasmussen, Director, Planning and Land Management, Town of Concord  
Carlene Hempel, Board Member, Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail



## Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail

P.O. Box 1192  
Concord, MA 01742  
[www.brucefreemanrailtrail.org](http://www.brucefreemanrailtrail.org)

September 21, 2022

Dear Summit Participant,

Thank you for participating last Thursday to discuss uniformity of signage and rules on the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail. We made good progress. Below, please find our working draft of rules as decided upon by the group.

### Board Members

**Acton**  
Paul Malchodi  
Joyce Reischutz

**Carlisle**  
Glenn Reed

**Chelmsford**  
Patrick Lewis

**Concord**  
Carlene Hempel  
Stuart Johnstone  
Judy Perrin  
Barbara Pike:  
*Membership*

**Framingham**  
Ed Kross

**Lowell**  
Sharon Galpin

**Sudbury**  
John McQueen  
Chris Menge  
Dick Williamson

**Westford**  
Chris Barrett  
Emily Teller:  
*Secretary*

**At-Large**  
Christine Corr:  
*Treasurer*  
Tom Michelman:  
*President*

### The new universal uniform rules are:

**Yield to Pedestrians**  
**Keep Right, Pass Left**  
**Give Audible Signal When Passing**  
**Do Not Block Trail**  
--  
Wear Helmets  
Leash Pets, Remove Waste  
No Littering – Carry In, Carry Out  
Respect Property Adjacent to the Trail

There were three ideas floated in terms of posting these rules:

- 1/ Have one sign on which all EIGHT rules are posted, along with a QR code for further information.
- 2/ Have one sign in which the first FOUR rules are posted on top of a sign, in larger print, and the last FOUR are in smaller print underneath.
- 3/ Have two different signs, one with the top FOUR rules posted frequently along the trail (to emphasize what's most important) and another sign with all EIGHT rules, but only at trailheads, kiosks and parking lots.

Communities would further agree to remove all other rule signage so that these uniform rules are what govern the trail. (We all agreed they are largely unenforceable.)

### **NEXT STEPS:**

- 1/ Our hope is that you will present these in the coming 4-6 weeks to your decision-making boards/committees so we can act by spring. (Please let me know if you need help; I am happy to join you in those meetings.)
- 2/ Suggestions/recommendations for signage design would be the next step. We would likely recommend a variation on the current uniform signage, pictured below.
- 3/ The Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail will pay for production of all new signs and deliver those to whatever office would install them (public works, for example).

Please contact me (617-335-0580; [carlenehempel@hotmail.com](mailto:carlenehempel@hotmail.com)) with any questions or concerns. We will follow up with each community in the weeks ahead and hope to reconvene in the spring to discuss placement and other issues affecting the trail, such as ebikes and speed limits.

Thank you,  
Carlene Hempel, on behalf of the Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail