

TOWN OF CONCORD

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee

Committee Charge

Amended June 5, 2023

A. Purpose

The purpose of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee (“BFRTAC”) is to protect, preserve, and promote the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (“BFRT”).

The BFRTAC solicits input and deliberates on the needs and interests of all BFRT users and stakeholders including, but not limited to those who are residents, non-residents, disabled, pedestrians, cyclists, abutters, and others.

The BFRTAC provides recommendations to the Select Board and Town Manager.

B. Membership

The Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee shall be comprised of seven residents of the Town appointed by the Select Board each for staggered three-year terms. The membership shall be as follows:

One member to represent the interests of abutters to the Rail Trail

One member, or designee, of the Commission on Disabilities

Five citizens at-large, who represent a wide range of trail users as described above.

C. Background

The Bruce Freeman Rail Trail is a 25-mile shared-use path between Lowell, MA and Framingham, MA along the former right-of-way of the Old Colony Railroad, 3.5 miles of which is in Concord.

Rail trails have been developed across the country to serve a variety of purposes, including recreational uses such as walking or cycling, promoting energy conservation and alternative transportation, linking communities, enabling passive recreation and the enjoyment of nature, enhancing health benefits and a community’s quality-of-life. The Select Board supports these objectives and therefore directs the BFRTAC to carry out the Purpose specified above along with the Duties and Responsibilities below.

D. Duties and Responsibilities of the BFRTAC

The BFRTAC is solely an advisory committee whose duties and responsibilities include:

1. To solicit public input and hold public hearings on topics concerning the use and condition of the trail.
2. To make recommendations to the Town Manager (or designee) and Select Board concerning the use, operations, maintenance, improvements, and all other matters that relate to the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail.
3. To work with the Town's Public Works and Public Safety staff to provide input and recommendations concerning traffic and safety issues involving the BFRT, particularly in areas where the rail trail intersects existing roadways, parks, and railroad crossings.
4. To communicate, consult, collaborate, and coordinate with any other Town of Concord boards and/or committees on matters that may pertain directly or indirectly to the BFRT and the BFRTAC's purpose under this charge.
5. To communicate, consult, collaborate, and coordinate with BFRT support organizations (e.g., The Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail) and local officials from all the towns along the BFRT on matters pertaining to BFRT use, maintenance, operation, and policies.
6. To submit a report of the Committee's activities each year to the Town of Concord for the Annual Town Report.

Section E: Other Considerations

1. To conduct its activities in a manner that complies with all relevant State and local laws and regulations, including, but not limited to, the Open Meeting Law, Public Records Law, and Conflict of Interest Law.
2. To consult with the Town Manager concerning the allocation of town staff or financial resources to the BFRT.
3. To elect annually, at the first BFRTAC meeting after Town Meeting, a Clerk and a Chair, or two co-Chairs.