

Town of Sudbury, Massachusetts
Minutes of the CIAC Meeting
April 28, 2015
Conference Room, DPW Building

Attendees: Susan Asbedian-Ciaffi, Jamie Gossels, Eric Greece, Tom Travers, Jim Kelly, Bob Desaulniers (8:50)

Also present: Andrew Sullivan, Dick Williamson

Not present: Sue Abrams, Michael Lane

1. Chairman Tom Travers called the meeting to order at 7:23 and noted that a quorum was present
2. Open Meeting Law presentation
Tom shared information he learned attending the Open Meeting Law seminar:
 - a. Liaison meetings: If two or more committee members attend a liaison meeting, the meeting and minutes have to be posted. A meeting between one CIAC liaison and Town representative (police, fire, DPW, etc.) does not have to follow these rules.
 - b. Meeting minutes: Committee members should not "Reply All" when commenting on draft minutes. Members should send comments only to the clerk. The clerk will follow up with individual members if there are inconsistencies in the comments, and will then distribute the edited version to all members before the next meeting. This version will be voted on at the next meeting (as has been the practice.)
 - c. Attendance at other meetings: If two or more committee members attend a meeting of another committee or board as observers, they should not sit together. This is not strictly prohibited but is "bad form" as it could create the perception that committee business is being discussed.
3. Minutes of April 7 meeting: Motion to approve minutes PASSED unanimously
4. Rail Trail Presentation
Andrew Sullivan presented information from Sudbury Greenways in support of petition articles 54 and 55 of the 2015 Sudbury Annual Town Meeting. Article 54 proposes to raise and appropriate \$1,000,000 to design and build a recreational rail trail along the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (running north-south through Sudbury). Article 55 proposes the same for the Mass Central Rail Trail (running east-west through Sudbury.)
Major points:

- This proposal would allow for recreational (stone dust) rail trails to be built within a year.
- Each trail would cost the average Sudbury homeowner \$157 in a one-time capital exclusion.
- Building these recreational trails does not preclude future paving of the trail(s).
- The trails will be engineered and of high quality: 10 feet wide with flexible 2 foot shoulders. There was some discussion about the details of the specifications: quality of the planned trail bed, drainage, etc.
- The design-build approach will save time and money. There was some discussion about this approach which hasn't been done in Sudbury before.
- Sudbury is pursuing the construction of the Bruce Freeman Trail as a MA DOT, paved bike path with funding expected (though possibly not secured?) The time frame for paving Bruce Freeman trail is unclear. Andrew suggests 10 years; Dick Williamson indicated it could be sooner.
- There is currently no plan in place to fund a paved Mass Central Trail
- Wayland approved the construction of a recreational rail trail along its portion of the Mass Central line. If Sudbury approves the Mass Central trail, it would connect to Wayland's.
- There is a possibility that NStar will develop a redundant line between Sudbury and Hudson along the Mass Central trail (one of three possible routes). Andrew believes that it is unlikely NStar will pave the trail for Sudbury as part of this development because burying the power lines and paving will be much more expensive than to build elevated lines. Committee members were concerned about the prospect of elevated power lines along a proposed trail. Andrew believes the NStar decision process will be long and protracted because of possible legal disputes with abutters and the Town.
- Jamie suggested that we consider supporting just the Mass Central trail since the Bruce Freeman Trail is already moving along the path to construction through state funding.
- Tom was concerned that the CIAC is considering these rail trail projects in a vacuum The Town is facing a lot of competing needs and the committee has already prioritized and recommended deferral of other important projects.

VOTES:

Motion to support Article 54 (Bruce Freeman) 0 in favor: 4 opposed, 1 abstention.

MOTION FAILED

Motion to support Article 55 (Mass Central): 3 in favor, 2 opposed, 0 abstentions.

MOTION PASSED

5. Meeting Adjournment

Unanimous approval to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jamie Gossels
Clerk