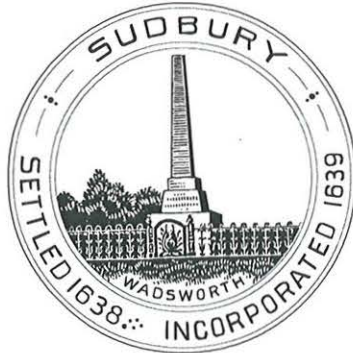


Town of Sudbury Massachusetts



2012 OFFICIAL WARRANT ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION Including Regional District School Committee

March 26, 2012

Polls Open 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.

Precincts 1, 1A, 2 & 5 - Fairbank Community Center, Fairbank Road
Precincts 3 & 4 - Sudbury Town Hall, Concord Road

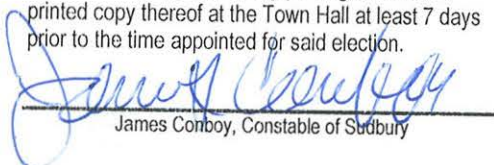
The Warrant for the 2012 Annual Town Meeting, to be held
Monday, May 7, 2012, will be issued and mailed separately.

10:00 AM
SUDBURY, MASS
12 MAR 15 PM 12:10

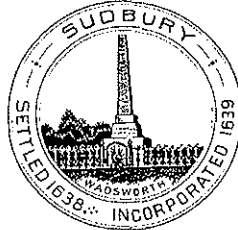
Middlesex, ss.

March 15, 2012

I have served this warrant by posting an attested
printed copy thereof at the Town Hall at least 7 days
prior to the time appointed for said election.


James Conboy, Constable of Sudbury

**TOWN OF SUDBURY
ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION
WARRANT**



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Middlesex, ss.

To the Constable of the Town of Sudbury:

GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Sudbury, qualified to vote in Town Elections, that voters residing in Precincts 1, 1A, 2 and 5 should meet at the Fairbank Community Center and voters residing in Precincts 3 and 4 should meet at the Town Hall in said Town on Monday, March 26, 2012, at seven o'clock in the forenoon; then and there to choose by official ballot in accordance with law, one Moderator, one member of the Board of Assessors, two Goodnow Library Trustees, one member of the Board of Health, one member of the Board of Selectmen, two members of the Sudbury School Committee, two members of the Planning Board, all for three years and one member of the Sudbury Housing Authority for five years. Included as part of the Annual Town Election will be an election of two members for three years each to the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional District School Committee. In addition, voters will be requested to vote on the following non-binding public advisory ballot questions:

Non-binding Public Opinion Advisory Question 1

Should the Town of Sudbury create a recreational Rail Trail more or less on the old rail right of way in Sudbury known as the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (BFRT)?

YES _____ NO _____

Summary

The Board of Selectmen is asking residents of Sudbury if they support the overall development of the BFRT in Sudbury. The proposed BFRT in Sudbury would go on land leased from the State, starting from the Concord town line near the Frost Farm south to the end of the right of way west of Union Avenue near Station Road. More information on the proposed Sudbury section of the BFRT can be found on the Town's web site at sudbury.ma.us. Various studies have previously been approved by Town Meeting but no final decisions have been made on whether Sudbury should spend significant time and resources to create this amenity.

A "yes" vote indicates that the citizens voting are in support of creating a recreation Rail Trail more or less on the old rail right of way known as the BFRT in Sudbury; however, a "yes" vote is advisory only and does not require action by the Town. A "no" vote indicates that the citizens voting are against the creation of a recreational Rail Trail more or less on the old rail right of way known as the BFRT in Sudbury; however, a "no" vote is advisory only and does not require action by the Town.

Arguments in Support

The Bruce Freeman Rail Trail, as it is presently conceived and partially developed, is a beautiful linear park 25 miles long stretching from Lowell south to Framingham. The Sudbury section is an integral part of a trail network; the trail will intersect in south Sudbury with the Mass. Central Rail Trail that someday will extend from Belmont to Northampton. Sudbury residents will enjoy the benefits associated with rail trails throughout the country: the pleasures of healthy outdoor exercise for people of all ages and abilities under safe conditions through beautiful landscapes that provide ample opportunities to learn about and enjoy the many gifts of nature. On the practical side, the Sudbury trail will provide various transportation benefits: ready access to the commuter rail in West Concord, easy access to Town center, shopping along Boston Post Road and safe routes to several schools and recreational fields, notably Featherland Park and Davis Field. The trail will not be just a bike path, but also a facility for walking, running, inline skating and cross country skiing and snowshoeing in winter. Indeed, user counts on the recently completed Chelmsford section of the trail show that walking, including parents pushing strollers, is often the predominant activity. While there are issues to be resolved in developing the entire Sudbury section of the trail, there is nothing to indicate that they cannot be resolved. State and federal funds will cover the entire cost of construction.

Arguments in Opposition

Sudbury should NOT create a rail trail on the north/south right-of-way for these reasons: If the Town builds a paved trail to highway standards to receive some federal funds, these will not be available before 2021-2025. Decades of dedicated staff time will be required to shepherd a project through the federal process.

If built to government highway standards, the Town's estimated cost will be at least \$900,000 plus the costs to develop parking, purchase easements, and the permanent maintenance, operating and policing costs. These costs are unknown.

The Town will need to develop dedicated parking in South Sudbury to prevent the parking conflicts with businesses and surrounding neighborhoods that have already arisen in Chelmsford and Westford.

If Community Preservation funds are used for trail development, higher priority open space and recreational projects may be sacrificed.

The Town-funded wildlife study determined that a trail constructed in the existing r.o.w. will create permanent, harmful impacts on ecologically sensitive areas and wildlife within and adjacent to the railbed.

Sudbury is already provided with miles of safe, family-friendly bicycle trails at the Assabet River Refuge on Hudson Road at zero cost to the Town. There, trail use is monitored.

Historically significant agricultural properties and businesses that enhance Sudbury's character will be negatively impacted.

The Town has repeatedly promised to develop a trail concept that preserves Sudbury's character, not just the standard road through the woods. A decision should wait until the Town honors this commitment.

Non-binding Public Opinion Advisory Question 2

Should the Town of Sudbury move forward with designing a 0.5 mile segment of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (BFRT) in north Sudbury from Rt. 117 at Davis Field to the Concord Town border?

YES _____ NO _____

Summary

The Board of Selectmen is asking residents of Sudbury if they support the design of a ½ mile segment of the overall BFRT in Sudbury. The proposed ½ mile segment would go on land, former rail bed, leased from the State, starting from the Concord town line near the Frost Farm / Cummings Business Park south to Route 117 (North Road), with parking for this trail segment at the Davis Recreational Field. The Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail have offered to donate approximately \$50,000 to pay for a preliminary design adhering to Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) design guidelines for this segment of the larger trail. More information on the proposed Sudbury section of the BFRT can be found on the Town's web site at sudbury.ma.us. Various studies have previously been approved by Town Meeting but no final decisions have been made on whether Sudbury should spend significant time and resources to create this amenity.

A "yes" vote indicates that the citizens voting are in support of designing a 0.5 mile segment of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (BFRT) in north Sudbury from Rt. 117 at Davis Field to the Concord Town border; however, a "yes" vote is advisory only and does not require action by the Town. A "no" vote indicates that the citizens voting are not in support of designing a 0.5 mile segment of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail in north Sudbury from Rt. 117 at Davis Field to the Concord Town border; however, a "no" vote is advisory only and does not require action by the Town.

Arguments in Support

By accepting this offer, the Town can initiate the rail trail development at no financial cost to town residents. Acceptance of the offer does not obligate the Town to construct any portion of the trail. The design of this segment according to MassDOT guidelines is consistent with the entire trail to the north and will qualify for federal and state construction funding. If the offer is not accepted, the Concord segment will terminate at Powder Mill Road. Bringing the trail to Rt. 117 will give Sudbury residents direct and safe access to 17 miles of a multipurpose trail north to the commuter rail station in West Concord and beyond to neighboring towns of Acton, Carlisle, Westford and Chelmsford. The trail has been constructed in Chelmsford and through most of Westford. The final design of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail for the rest of Westford, through Carlisle, Acton and Concord is currently underway. With all of the progress to the north of our Town, isn't it time to address the possibilities for the trail in Sudbury? Accepting this offer presents a very practical way for the Town to do that.

Arguments in Opposition

The Town of Sudbury should NOT move forward with the 25% design of this ½ mile trail segment and the use of the Davis Recreational Field parking lot as a trail terminus for the following reasons:

We cannot allow outside special interests to influence the direction of Town projects.

Parking for this regional trail at Davis Field is Concord's solution to its lack of parking. It's also in direct conflict with Sudbury's parking needs for this field.

The proposed offer to raise money will only cover a fraction of the full design. Sudbury will be responsible for the complete design cost. This cost is unknown.

The majority of this section is within wetland jurisdiction. MassDOT paved design standards conflict with State regulations and Sudbury's Wetlands Bylaw, potentially having legal implications.

Acceptance of this offer is in direct conflict with the Selectmen's 2009 commitment to the Town. Town Meeting voted to fund the development of a concept by Town staff before moving forward. The Town has not acted on this binding article.

The earliest that construction funding for Concord's trail may become available is 2021-2025. By then, many design requirements may change, requiring plans and studies to be redone. There's sufficient time to develop an entire trail concept plan that's right for Sudbury.

It is irresponsible to draw Town resources and staff away from higher priority projects or to spend anyone's money for an amenity that won't be constructed for at least a decade.

Polls will open at seven o'clock in the forenoon and will be closed at eight o'clock in the evening.

And you are required to serve this Warrant by posting an attested copy thereof at the Town Hall at least seven days before the time appointed for such election.

Hereof fail not and make due return of the Warrant by your doing thereon to the Town Clerk, at or before the time of election aforesaid.

Given under our hands this seventh day of March, 2012.

SELECTMEN OF SUDBURY:

Lawrence W. O'Brien

Robert C. Haarde

John C. Drobinski



Town of Sudbury
Sudbury
Massachusetts

U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 4
Sudbury, MA 01776
ECRWSS

POSTAL PATRON
SUDBURY
MASSACHUSETTS 01776

ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION
Monday, March 26, 2012