



Place: 322 Concord Road, Town Hall
Date: August 25, 2016

Notes Taken by: Tracie Lenhardt, P.E.

Meeting Notes

Project #: 12984.00

Re: Bruce Freeman Rail Trail
Public Charrette Meeting Notes

ATTENDEES

Tracie Lenhardt	Scott Brunner	Steve Rhoads
Meagen Donaghue	Beth Suedmeyer	Michelle Ciccolo
Amanda Quigley	Melanie Weaver	Raymond Parker
Greg George	Rita & Sid Bourne	Mary Sue Nutt
Paul Cavicchio Jr.	Carole Wolfe	Len Simon
Dan DePompei	Pat Brown	Susan Iuliano

A charrette type meeting was held on August 25 to solicit input from the citizens of Sudbury about the future Bruce Freeman Rail Trail project. The follow items were discussed:

Amenity ideas to consider:

- Air pumps for bike located at parking areas.
- Signage for bikes and on which side they are to pass pedestrians.
- Garbage/Trash Pickup at gateways or parking areas.
- Plastic bags at gateways or parking areas to pick up dog droppings.
- Request to make bridges look historic and not modern. There was a preference on making the bridge look like a board walk.
- Request for bathrooms near parking areas.
- Mention of converting the old railroad house near the Union Ave and Station Road intersection to a rest stop/vendor with bathrooms.
- Interest is resetting old rail road posts (whistle posts or posts with mile numbers on them).
- Interest in preserving any historic railroad elements.
- Suggestions for overlook areas included the crossing of Pantry Brook and Hop Brook

Parking

- Davis Field at the northern end of the project was mentioned

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Watertown, MA 02472
P 617.924.1770



- The 'Fieldhouse' at the southern end of the project was mentioned by Greg George and Len Simon as being a potentially great location for parking to use the path.
 - Located at 31 Union Ave
 - Believed to have excess parking as the parking lot has never been full or at capacity. VHB would have to determine amount of parking that would be needed and if the owner is agreeable.
 - Approximately an 800 feet walk to the proposed rail trail. (Users would have to walk 800 feet down a driveway that does not provide sidewalks or other refuge)
- Question asking if parking would be provided at or near the Peakham Road at Route 27 intersection.
- Potential parking area at Featherland Park

Alternative Alignments mentioned:

- Codjer Lane to Union Ave to Old Lancaster Road
- Start on Union Ave to Old Lancaster Road
- Union to Pheasant Ave to Meadow Drive to Lancaster:
 - Could avoid Traffic at Union Ave at Concord Road
 - Could provide better safety along Pheasant Ave and Meadow Drive due to low traffic volumes.
 - Request for signage on Meadow Drive and Pheasant Ave for no cut thru traffic.
- Request to look at an alternative that follows Morse Road to Concord Road/Pantry Road to Haynes Road to avoid Pantry Brook, wetlands and abutters.

Alignment Concerns

- Water supply/spray from Cavicchio Greenhouses near Codjer Lane.
 - Concerns of risks of having trail users in this area.
- Alternative along Union Ave
 - 'High' speeds (posted speeds are 30 mph to 40 mph) along the alternative section.
 - Narrow roadway with little room to accommodate all users. Mention that there are no sidewalks on Union Ave.

Wetland Concerns

- Questions on the impacts near Hop Brook



- Pantry Brook and adjacent wetland impacts – Concern that the Town will make exceptions to the Town bylaws instead of following them.
- Concern of old railroad contaminants being disturbed and impacting the adjacent wetlands and private property.
- Concern of rail trail drainage being sent onto private property.

General Concerns/Comments

- Poison Ivy along the trail
- Concern over allowing dogs or pets:
 - How will it be picking up after a pet be enforced.
 - Pet droppings “contaminate” ground water.
- Concern over the crossing at Route 27 and how it would be coordinated with the proposed 250 unit housing development to be located adjacent to the path off of Route 27. Questions on if a signal would be needed for the development and the rail trail crossing.
- Heavy traffic noted at the intersection of Peakham Road at Route 27 adjacent to the rail trail crossing and future housing development.
- Some would like the trail to be gravel instead of paved as they feel pavement will look too urbanized. VHB explained the maintenance issues will gravel path and keeping them ADA accessible.
- A question was asked about options for path design on existing narrow embankments that are present in areas of the corridor.
- A question was asked about the level of clearing of existing trees and vegetation for construction of the rail trail. VHB explained the existing vegetation will be retained to the maximum extent practicable while also providing a safe path design.
- Desire for more public meetings.
- Questions on if the abutters would be contacted during the design for their input. Some may want specific meetings to go over their specific questions and concerns.
- Concern that there is no room for lookout areas at the bridges and that in order to provide them, impacts to vegetation would have to occur.
- A suggestion was given that overlooks or rest areas might be added to the rail trail after construction if the Town were to coordinate with volunteer groups and/or Boy Scout Eagle Scout projects
- Mention that there are old crossings for horses and cows.



Meeting Notes

- Some people still have horses in the area and would like to make sure that the rail trail is screened off so that the horses do not get alarmed as someone is riding them.
- Mention of bike races on Concord Road and only heavy bike users will travel on Concord Road.
- Concern about the hazardous materials at the old railroad stations where they used to dump coal.