Rail Trail Conversion Advisory Committee

The Rail Trail Conversion Advisory Committee (RTCAC) was created by the Selectmen in November, 2004, to provide a mechanism for the Town to examine the conversion of the unused Framingham-Lowell rail line into a recreational path and alternative transportation corridor, to help identify and address the many questions and concerns of Sudbury residents concerning this project, and to support town staff as they study the feasibility of such a conversion. The section of the rail trail in Sudbury would continue the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail currently under construction in Chelmsford.

Three proposals submitted by RTCAC to the Board of Selectmen were approved by Town Meeting in 2007—a title review, a four-season wildlife study, and a field survey to map the corridor in detail. In summer 2007, the title search was judged sufficient to proceed with the wildlife study and the field survey with wetlands delineation. Presentation of the completed four-season wildlife study to the Board of Selectmen is planned for December 2008. The field survey with wetlands delineation, though scheduled for completion in June of 2008, is not yet finished. The final version of the title search is not yet available.

In May 2007, the Board of Selectmen assigned the RTCAC a new task, the formulation of a notebook containing information about the history of this right of way and also a review of the development and operation of representative rail trails in other Massachusetts communities. The RTCAC has focused on creating this document during 2008. In response to questions from the Agricultural Commission concerning the rail trail conversion, the RTCAC appointed a liaison to attend their meetings and investigate the concerns of the agricultural community. The RTCAC has also presented several recommendations for further action to the Board of Selectmen. The information compiled by the RTCAC is posted on the committee page of the Town website, where citizens can find up-to-date information on our activities.