

Town of Sudbury Massachusetts
RAIL TRAIL CONVERSION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting Held March 10, 2005

PRESENT: Pat Brown, Madeleine Gelsinon, Dennis Mannone, Jennifer Pincus, Bill Place, Bryan Semple, Dick Williamson, Carole Wolfe, Nancy Powers, Bridget Hanson.

Not Present: Eric Poch, Gregory Hunt, Debbie Dineen

Also Attending: Town Manager Maureen Valente

1. Opening of meeting at 7:35 pm
2. Draft Minutes of 3.05.05 meeting were distributed for review, to be voted on at next meeting.
3. Public Comment Period: No comments except to inquire if meeting minutes would be public, which was confirmed that committee minutes are public information.
4. Committee Questions: Town Meeting timelines and RTCAC timelines to be aware of:
 - a. Primary timelines to be aware of concern Annual Town Meeting and the Community Preservation Committee. Articles are due on December 31 of each year, so if the RTCAC feels it is nearing asking Town Meeting for an appropriation, this is one deadline to be aware of.
 - b. Secondary timeline is that of the Community Preservation Committee. In 2004, they set a deadline of October 13, 2004 for submission of funding requests for CPC funds.
5. Process for developing information for web page and other public distribution.
 - a. Any document must be voted by the committee before it can be put on the Town's web page.
 - b. Once committee votes to add something to web page, item should be sent to a Town staff member for uploading to the web page.
6. Frequently Asked Questions document for the website. Committee went through draft document prepared by Dick Williamson. Overall, committee felt the document should be re-ordered to first present information pertaining just to the unused rail line in Sudbury, then follow that with information about the development of the rest of this line outside of Sudbury borders. Further, committee felt that many items that rely on past studies of implications of rail trail development, such as cost of development, impact on abutters, property

values, economic impacts, quality of life, etc, should not be answered at this time, rather stating a general response in the FAQ document that “this issue will be examined by this committee.” The same kind of response should be given for questions concerning the physical properties of the trail and use of the trail. The committee added two more questions to address in the FAQ:

- a. “Whose permission does the Town need to use the unused rail trail?”
- b. “Does the Town keep statistics on crimes that occur on the rail lines?”

Some questions were suggested to be dropped altogether as perhaps not really quantifiable, such as “Will the town lower property values and taxes for homes abutting the rail trail?” or “Do rail trails violate the privacy of abutters?”

- c. Dick Williamson volunteered to rewrite those questions where the Committee felt some information could be presented at this time, and took notes on Committee suggestions. He will bring this draft to the next meeting.

7. Election of Officers. It was moved and seconded to put the election of committee officers on the agenda for the next meeting.
8. Scheduling of Next Meeting. It was agreed that all committee members would send to Maureen Valente their schedule with conflicts for the next few weeks, and Ms. Valente will select a date with the fewest conflicts.
9. Public Comment: Mr. Wallack commented that groups that are in favor of development of trails will accentuate the positive and ignore or overlook the negative associated with such development and urged the committee to keep an open mind and examine studies with varying viewpoints.
10. Meeting adjourned at 9:38 pm