

From: Leonard Simon [mailto:lensimon@comcast.net]

Sent: Thursday, January 16, 2014 1:21 PM

To: Community Preservation Committee

Cc: Selectmen

Subject: Rail trail design study funding request

Dear Members of the Community Preservation Committee,

I am writing in response to Ms. Kablack's email raising the question about reducing the level of funding requests to the CPC.

This note pertains only to the Board of Selectmen's request for funding of the initial design study for the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail that I presented on behalf of the Board on December 4, 2013.

I understand your dilemma, and appreciate that you would like to fund all requests in full, but I am also aware there is simply not sufficient funds available to meet all requests in full.

If I could reduce the amount of the Board of Selectmen's request for funding for the initial design study for the rail trail I would do so out of respect for other worthy projects, and in the spirit of accommodation with so many others who have worked equally hard.

However, I cannot reduce the funding request for several reasons. First, it is an all-or-nothing project. If we cannot fund the expected cost of the initial design study it cannot be done at all. Second, I received a good faith estimate of the cost of the design study from a vendor who is in the business of doing these studies, and has actually done work on the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail. That estimate, I believe, has neither fat nor waste. I hope the proposal comes in under the anticipated cost, but, if it does it will not be by much. I would not want to put the entire project in jeopardy by underestimating the cost of the initial design study.

Third, the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail has been the subject of discussion in town for at least 10 years, and residents have repeatedly asked for action on it.

Fourth, the offer from the Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail to contribute over \$58,000 toward the cost of the initial design study (close to a quarter of the cost) could be withdrawn if not accepted this year, in which case the entire burden would fall to the town.

Fifth, the residents voted overwhelmingly at the ballot box in March 2012, and again at town meeting, in favor of bringing the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail to Sudbury, and for acceptance of the offer of funding for the design study from the friends of the BFRT.

Thank you all for your time and hard work on behalf of the Town, and I wish you well as you tackle the difficult decisions you are facing.

Thank you also for having me at your meeting last night and for the opportunity to address you.

Len Simon

Selectman