

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Design Task Force Meeting Minutes of February 16, 2017

(Minutes approved on March 29, 2017)

7 p.m., Silva Conference Room, Flynn Building

Present: Daniel Carty, Robert Schless, LeRoy Sievers, Charles Russo

Call in via phone: Lana Szwarc

Absent: John Drobinski, Robert Beagan

In attendance: Beth Suedmeyer, Sudbury Planning Department; Tracie Lenhardt, VHB

Meeting called to order at 7:07 p.m. by Vice Chairman Carty

Discussion of Comments Received and Past Documents

- Acknowledgement of receipt of written comments from Fire Chief and Conservation Agent
 - Brief discussion of conservation issues and coordination to date
 - LeRoy Sievers questioned whether a gravel or stone dust surface option might be considered. Beth Suedmeyer noted there are pros and cons to that surface material, but that most department heads support a paved surface.
- Question whether commenters from the 2007 Report had been contacted. Beth Suedmeyer verified outreach is underway.

Alternatives Discussion

Wetlands matrix

- Overview of maps and matrices from Tracie Lenhardt, VHB Engineer, identifying challenge areas
- Clarification about different widths and treatments of path, including shoulder discussion, MassDOT requirements
- Clarification about size of temporary vs. permanent wetland impact
- Discussion of pervious v. impervious surfaces
- Beth Suedmeyer noted that if more than 5,000 square feet of bvw alteration is proposed, MassDEP must also permit/approve a variance for the project, including MEPA Environmental Notification Form (ENF) and Environmental Impact Report (EIR)
- Question about vegetation removal
- Question about where mitigation might occur – T. Lenhardt noted as close as possible to affected site (adjacent or alongside)
- Questions about ownership around the right-of-way and whether ROW offers sufficient area for mitigation/restoration to occur within the ROW

- Beth Suedmeyer noted that many of today's wetlands may have grown out of drainage ditches created by the railroad, so wetland replication would similar to artificial wetland creation by railroads
- LeRoy Sievers questioned whether historic maps might help restore wetlands to pre-railroad locations

Alternatives Matrix

- Comparison of raw number rankings from various Alternatives
- Brief discussion of routes, new route #3 off Union through town-owned conservation land
- Discussion of floodplain impacts
- Question about cost estimates other than construction; no numbers for Sudbury alternative costs have been estimated yet. Lana Szwarc noted that no right-of-way compensation numbers under consideration, questioned how any any takings or easements would be paid for. Beth Suedmeyer explained that design costs are responsibility of the town, construction costs would be paid for with state/federal money, and that right-of-way takings/easement costs would be the responsibility of the town.
- Discussion about how adding an on-road 14-foot path in some places could take up half of a resident's yard.
- Question about how Alternative #2 (Concord Road diversion) was added; it will divert around Pantry Brook but not avoid "challenge" areas. Beth Suedmeyer explained it was added as a result of a direct suggestion from a resident at a previous public information meeting.
- Pantry Brook: dislodged abutment needs to be fixed anyway, so potentially is mitigation, also a note that even if on-road alternative is chosen, stream crossings would still be necessary (even if just widening of road).
- Old farm road on Wolfe farm property paralleling Concord Road may be another option for crossing Pantry Brook. But this would need to be investigated.

Next Steps for Task Force

- Future public outreach
 - March 14 date set for close of comment period to BFRT Task Force regarding 25% design
 - Abutter meeting with notices set for Thursday March 2, 2017, as part of BFRT Task Force meeting
 - Public information meeting set for 7 p.m. Thursday, March 9, 2017, at Town Hall
 - Lana Szwarc noted that additional posting on OneSudbury Facebook group, town website, etc. would help.
- Review of planned Town Boards/Departments/Organizations Outreach Activities and Schedule
 - Planning Board: 2/22, Dan Carty will represent
 - Chamber of Commerce: tbd, Dan Carty working on it
 - Conservation Commission: 3/13, Beth and Tracie to attend
 - Parks & Rec: 2/27, Bobby to address
 - Council on Aging: March 9
 - Board of Health: was attended 2/14
 - Historical District: to attend BFRT meeting of 3/2
 - Abutters: to attend BFRT meeting of 3/2
 - Schools: tbd
 - Agricultural Commission: tbd
 - Energy & Sustainability Commission: tbd
- Discussion of abutter letter and maps

- Copies of route abutter letter and alternative route abutter letter shared
- Confirm deadline of comments of March 14
- Note that incorrect date for abutter meeting of March 3, instead of March 2, included in one abutter letter
- Request to add a sentence explicitly explaining that those unable to attend meetings can still submit comments
- Public meeting on March 9
- Brief discussion of large land owners (Wolfes, Machine Methods, Cavicchio, Maurer) along the trail, need to engage with them to understand if/how trail might affect future land use. Beth Suedmeyer notes that some one-on-one abutter meetings are planned.
- Discussion of Report format for BOS Recommendation
 - Discussion about how some BFRT Task Force members will be out of town for future meetings; those out of town could call in to the meetings or view them via SudburyTv.org
 - Note that BFRT Task Force mission provides an outline of how to format report
 - Task Force members asked to submit potential outlines before next meeting (3/2/2017)
- Meeting Minutes from February 2, 2017, motion to approve by Bob Schless, second by Charlie Russo. 5-0 vote to approve.

Public Comment

- Carol Wolfe, Concord Road, questioned whether a resin composite surface might be considered among the recommendations to BOS. Discussion of whether the surface would be more costly or difficult to maintain. Task Force members unsure if that level of detail among potential surface types would be examined.

Motion to adjourn by Charlie Russo, second by Bob Schless, 5-0 vote to adjourn.

Next Scheduled Task Force Meeting Dates: March 2, March 9, March 16