



# Town of Sudbury

## Rail Trails Advisory Committee

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### MINUTES

October 4, 2023 AT 7:30 PM

### VIRTUAL MEETING

**Members Present:** John Drobinski, Glen Pransky, Frank Vitale, Laurie Eliason, and Ken Holtz

**Others Present:** Marcia Rasmussen, Planning & Community Development Department, Janie Dretler, Select Board Member

**Absent:** None

#### Update from the Chair:

The base coat of the BFRT is currently being put down. The public should be advised that the trail is still an active construction zone. Technically walking on the trail without permission is trespassing because the contractor currently has control. The ask is to be respectful and if asked to leave, the public should do so. There will be a notice posted on the website as well.

#### Updates from Marcia Rasmussen:

##### Phase 3 Update:

Nick LaPointe from Fuss & O'Neill (FO) set up an informal meeting with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) project Manager to review the expected deliverables and the next steps, including holding the pre 25% scoping meeting with do with the Department of Transportation. Upon that meeting's conclusion they will schedule a site walk, and the Committee will be invited to attend.

FO has commenced a preliminary watershed analysis and hydraulic review of the culverts. There are refinements to the parking lot layout previously discussed on Nobscot Road (15 spaces). They are also reviewing shoulders and slopes to determine safety, and where fencing might be needed.

FO is awaiting the scoping meeting date. Current target is to send the 25% design to the Committee in Nov/Dec. for review and to submit to MassDOT in March 2024.

Review of Nobscot Parking: The layout is parallel to the roadway with angled parking and one way in and out. John Drobinski raised that other considerations will be trash cans and benches. These can be further discussed at the site visit. Laurie Eliason raised that they would need to think about whether there should be porta potty/bathroom near the parking. The next one north would be at Broad Acres. Marcia Rasmussen confirmed there would be a rest area and bike racks. She also said the bathroom situation could be discussed with the business community to see the type of support and confirmed there are a number of locations where they're talking about adding concrete pads for porta potties. Frank Vitale asked if Concord Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (BFRT) has bathrooms along trail, and Marcia said there were ongoing discussions, as well as areas that are a work in progress (e.g., West Concord, Warner's Pond).

Laurie Eliason asked about parking on the north side of Concord Road. Currently there are a few spaces near the diamond and ongoing evaluation of further parking.

Phase 2D Update/Other Discussion:

Marcia Rasmussen: The Phase 2D construction update meeting with contractor is this week. They will be continuing the installation of the base course from North Road up to the Concord portion. Some areas are very wet with high ground water so they are not sure if they can do all base course this fall, in which case it would be delayed until next spring.

Hydration stations/water lines will be installed in the spring, including Hudson Road, and Broad Acres. The potential for a station at the Diamond is still being explored.

Dick Williamson asked about the intersection at Ti Sales and the crossing light post. Marcia said some of the driveway is on the Railroad right of way, and they have a lease for the use of that right of way. There will need to be a solution between Ti Sales and Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA). There is a meeting in early October, and all hope for an agreement on the intersection.

Frank Vitale asked about the interpretive signs. Marcia had provided a list of the sign locations. Town/Chair is working on reaching out to the Historic District Commission and the Conservation Commission to make final plans. There are plans for granite posts and panels, and the content still needs to be provided by the Town. A grant of \$30,000 had been provided from the Sudbury Foundation to help support the work. There will also be mile markers every quarter mile.

Len Simon, Meadowbrook Circle, raised his hand and was called on to speak. He asked if there was a plan to update the entrance to Parkinson's Field and widen the road (as many people currently use Ti Sales driveway). John Drobinski confirmed it is not currently part of the plan. Len suggested the board consider approaching DPW and/or taking an article to spring town meeting. He also asked if there was a protocol in place to collect information from the public on amenities. Chair Drobinski confirmed the process was being discussed. Len Simon also requested that meeting minutes be posted in a timely manner.

Laurie Eliason suggested there might be signage on Hudson Road to direct traffic to use the Parkinson's field driveway. Dick Williamson raised `20 years ago Sudbury looked into having more room on the access road but there may be overlap with neighboring property. This would need to be looked into further.

Janie Dretler, Select Board, was called on to speak. She asked about whether timelines would be available in the future. Marcia Rasmussen said she can try to get a month-to-month update, but much is weather-dependent. She will aim to provide a final date as to when completion is expected, as well as monthly updates.

Marcia Rasmussen has asked FO to provide their scope of work and project proposal for the 25% design so as to get a contract in place. The Mass Trails grant to support this need to be used by June 2024.

The Creative Placemaking Strategy Workshop was postponed until the end of October. It was supposed to happen in September. It's been postponed to the end of October. Marcia Rasmussen and John Drobinski will attend.

Marcia Rasmussen provided an update on financials. There is close to \$1 million remaining and this will go to 25% design as intended. She is putting forward a CPC request for ~\$250,000 for spring town meeting to support sufficient funds for full 25% design.

Marcia Rasmussen shared that Len Simon (Sudbury Resident) had prepared a presentation that he was planning to show at Fall Fest (cancelled due to weather). This will be used on the website and as an outreach tool. Marcia is also in the process of drafting a letter to the business community for input on BFRT, Phase 3. There is ongoing discussion about having an information meeting with 'open door' to show Phase 3 design.

Len Simon asked the Committee if anyone had heard whether Framingham had completed the purchase and sale of the CSX corridor as planned as there was a planned celebration. It was not yet known, but there may have been an administrative delay.

Janie Dretler suggested considering providing an opportunity to collect public feedback at the Town Forum. Chair Drobinski said he would attend.

Marcia Rasmussen mentioned she had heard complaints from select trail abutters on littering, including dog waste. She said it would be best to have a comprehensive approach from the Town. She asked the committee members about their experiences. Laurie Eliason said that Park and Recreation/fields have pet waste stations. They had also discussed signage on the trail and that should be stations. John Drobinski also suggested having a discussion with Police Chief Scott Nix on handling littering.

Dick Williamson reminded the Committee that the residents of Meadow Walk are awaiting to hear if they will have a formal connection to the Massachusetts Central Rail Trail (MCRT). John Drobinski said there are preliminary conversations with various individuals along the trail on connections and parking.

**Next RTAC meeting at 7:30PM**  
October 18<sup>th</sup> via zoom

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:30PM**