



Town of Sudbury

Rail Trails Advisory Committee

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MINUTES

September 6, 2023 AT 7:30 PM

VIRTUAL MEETING

Members Present: John Drobinski, Glenn Pransky, Kenneth Holtz, and Laurie Eliason

Others Present: Marcia Rasmussen, Planning & Community Development Department

Absent: Lana Szwarc, John Sugrue, and Frank Vitale

- Fuss & O'Neill received photos from Ti Sales showing issues with using their driveway. Some revisions were proposed to address this problem, and further discussion with Ti Sales will occur.
- Fall Fest in Sudbury September 2023 – good time to solicit public input for amenities on Phase 3 of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (BFRT). May have a table with Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (FBFRT) or a separate table ourselves. We have reserved a booth.
- BFRT Phase 3 - We received notification and contract from Mass Trails Division of Department of Transportation, so we can proceed with getting a contract underway for design of Phase 3. Update meeting on Phase 3 was held last week with Fuss & O'Neill. Marcia Rasmussen attended the meeting. Funding needs to be complete by June 30, 2024. We would like 25% design for this phase completed early next year. We would like to do a site walk on Phase 3 sometime in October so we can present recommendations by November.
- Select Board member Janie Dretler contacted Ms. Rasmussen about a workshop on wayfinding and placemaking, September 28, 2024 in Acton. Ms. Rasmussen and Mr. Drobinski are willing to attend. The Town of Acton has received funding for this project.
- Ms. Rasmussen's office hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 12:00PM-4:00PM in the Planning & Community Development Department, Flynn Building. She is happy to meet with residents to discuss questions or concerns, and is catching up on administrative issues.
- Progress is good on both trails. On the BFRT, some areas were wetter than expected, and additional substrate was needed. At the north end in Sudbury there is some subsidence on

the trail and is being investigated; also, water levels are high in this area. These issues are not likely to affect the project schedule. The Committee met with Lori Capone Conservation Coordinator to get her input on potential for added amenities in areas that might be covered by conservation restrictions, and what can be included now without affecting the Order of Conditions, or should be part of a separate project that will require Conservation review. Some of the potential amenities might be better deferred until later to see what residents really want. Hydration at the Diamond may be a priority and, something we should review now regarding feasibility and cost.

- There is no plan for an article at 2023 Fall Town Meeting on behalf of the Committee. Community Preservation Committee (CPC) grant cycle is open, and applications are due in early October – very short turnaround time. For the Mass Central Rail Trail (MCRT), requesting amenities or other changes is a more complex issue, as its now an Eversource project, and doesn't become a Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR) project until next year. Some things may have to wait.
- The August 17, 2023 Site Visit of the BFRT and MCRT, focused on connections potential amenities and construction progress. The August 31, 2023 Site Visit of the MCRT, focused on connections and amenities.
- Available funding – Ms. Rasmussen is investigating the various allocations and available resources for the BFRT, and will report at our next meeting.
- Ms. Rasmussen will function as the Town's representative in meetings with key abutters.
- Signage – we will form a subcommittee. Opportunities for geologic, natural, historical and other features. We are not sure what is under development on the BFRT – some were initially proposed in earlier designs. MCRT – already have 3 planned. Mr. Drobinski will chair this effort.
- Ms. Eliason will continue to look at maintenance issues along the trail, and will look closely at potential use and amenities at Morse Road locations.

Meeting adjourned at 830 pm.

Respectfully submitted – Glenn Pransky