



Town of Sudbury

Rail Trails Advisory Committee

railtrails@sudbury.ma.us

Flynn Building
278 Old Sudbury Road
Sudbury, MA 01776
978-639-3387
Fax : 978-639-3314

<https://sudbury.ma.us/bfrr/>

MINUTES

January 8, 2025 AT 7:30 PM

VIRTUAL MEETING

Members Present: John Drobinski (Chair), Glenn Pransky, Ken Holtz, Laurie Eliason,

Others Present: Marcia Rasmussen, Planning & Community Development Department,

Absent: Lana Szwarc, and John Sugrue

Meeting called to order 7:32PM

Update from Chair:

- Lots of comments and feedback from the public lately. Mostly very positive feedback.

Staff Update:

- Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (BFRT) Phase 2D:
 - A lot of information provided about traffic signals
 - Responded to the person who filed the original complaint.
 - Signal is not yet certified.
 - Planning Board approved removal of 36" Oak tree with conditions that the stump be ground and a replacement tree planted in a nearby location.
 - The five large historic interpretive panels were completed and submitted in December. The smaller panels to be attached to granite posts are still in the works with the hope of completing these by the end of January.
 - Unable to meet with Eagle Scout candidate; meeting has not been rescheduled
 - A construction update meeting is scheduled for next week. Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) must approve and accept the work before the trail can be opened to the public.
- Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (BFRT) Phase 3:
 - Town staff planner and an engineer from Fuss & O'Neill met with a representative from Middlesex Saving Bank on Boston Post Road to review proposed changes in front of the bank.
 - MassDOT has scheduled a meeting with Framingham and Sudbury staff to discuss the Eaton Road West area.

- Historical Commission members walked the trail with MassDOT cultural resources staff and identified a second cattle crossing. A letter prepared by the Historical Commission also requested one or two stone culverts be retained.
- MPO staff states that the additional 50% funding will be included in the next TIP for federal fiscal year 2030.
- DGT Associates provided a conceptual parking plan for Chiswick Park land, which was reviewed by Conservation Coordinator Lori Capone. Comments will be incorporated in the next iteration of the plan.
- Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) is considering expanding the paving contract to repave the parking area around Crumble Station near the Diamond intersection, which would create an additional 9 parking spots.
- Ms. Eliason asked about TIP timing of 2030 and questioned whether that is later than originally discussed and whether it was possible to make it earlier?
 - Ms. Rasmussen expressed that she was originally hopeful the project could move up but realized we couldn't be ready by 2026. Funding for 50% was included in FFY2029 budget and anticipated FFY2030 for the second half of construction funds. In the event some projects are unable to proceed, this project is poised to move forward, so there is a slight possibility to move up the timeframe.
- Ms. Eliason also asked about the extension of the rail trail in Framingham.
 - Ms. Rasmussen stated they have design funds and will find out where they are in the process.
 - Mr. Pransky added that Framingham's portion of the BFRT has been broken into two sections where the first part is easy. The second part is more complicated construction-wise and state agency review/approval considered.
 - The 25% Design Public Hearing for Phase 3 in Sudbury is to be scheduled by MassDOT for this spring.
 - Framingham has hired a design engineer.
- Mr. Holtz asked if it's possible to have any of the Chiswick in gravel or something similar.
 - Yes, this is being discussed. It may be necessary to pave the handicap parking, driveway, and trail access for accessibility purposes. Mr. Holtz added that gravel having a gravel surface may be an important consideration to Conservation Commission (ConCom) review and permitting.
 - Ms. Eliason asked how construction of this parking would be paid for and it was clarified that this parking is not tied to either Phase 2D or Phase 3.
 - Ms. Rasmussen responded that funds may be available through current Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds for construction of Phase 2D; the RTAC wants to be sure this is something that can be done.
 - Mr. Drobinski added, its good news that the owner of Chiswick Park is willing to work with the Town on this, given its critical location. Mr. Pransky also stated they have been very generous in doing some of the upfront work for us.

- Ms. Rasmussen added that the town is paying for the conceptual parking layout design under current CPA funds and received confirmation from the Committee members that she should continue to pursue parking on the Chiswick Park land.
 - Framingham
 - Still working to finalize the inter-municipal agreement.
- Massachusetts Central Rail Trail (MCRT)
 - Eversource is nearly done with its construction project and will be turn the right-of-way over to Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) soon.
 - Two members of the RTAC and two Town staff conducted a recent site walk with representatives from Sudbury Valley Trustees (SVT) and DCR to discuss points of access to adjacent lands from the MCRT, including the potential for accessible parking located at Dutton Road. Mr. Holtz requested that other RTAC members be notified whenever a site walk is planned
 - The Town may continue work with SVT to prepare a future MassTrails Grant for funding design and installation of accessible points of access to Memorial Forest and Hop Brook Conservation lands as well as construction of a small accessible parking area on Dutton Road, with matching funds possible from CPA funds and other fundraising activities.
 - Ms. Eliason followed up with questions about MCRT access to the Meadow Walk area and learned that the site walk did not extend to this location but will need to be discussed in the future considering that Meadow Walk is private property. Mr. Holtz noted that much of the area requires a wetland crossing. Mr. Pransky added there may be a suitable area as it's not in a resource area but might be in buffer zone.

Public Question on Staff Report:

- John McQueen (265 Hudson Road) asked about traffic lights particularly about timing with other signals. Particular concern about eastbound traffic in the AM.
 - Ms. Rasmussen reported that she has passed along earlier suggestions to MassDOT and Fuss & O'Neill.
 - Mr. Drobinski asked Ms. Rasmussen to share the information included in the staff update memo with Mr. McQueen and she agreed that she would.
 - Mr. Drobinski indicated that he would welcome going over information with Mr. McQueen and how it relates to public comment/suggestions.
- Ms. Rasmussen displayed design around the Diamond Intersection with parking of 9 spots near the yellow building (aka Crumble Station) adjacent to MCRT. She also described access to the proposed Chiswick Park parking area.
 - Ms. Eliason brought up concerns around traffic with Union Ave and that area. Hopeful not to have parking backing directly into the road. It was clarified that this is not the case for the Chiswick Park parking area.
 - Mr. Pransky discussed locating a porta potty in this area and also past discussion of a hydration station.

- Ms. Rasmussen was unsure a hydration would be necessary. Nobscot Road parking area will have a Hydration station. However, there is not currently one on MCRT. Future discussion on this still required. Ms. Rasmussen will reach out to Sudbury Water District to see what is feasible in the two potential locations.
- Ms. Rasmussen will also check with Amber Christofferson to determine whether there would be a location on the MCRT for a porta potty.
- Ms. Eliason asks where porta potties are currently located and learned there were two concrete pads installed – one at Davis Field parking area and the other at Morse Road/Broadacres Farm area. Mr. Pransky noted that the Friends of the BFRT often provide porta potties on the trail.

Member Reports:

- Ms. Eliason discussed Ms. Rasmussen presenting to Park & Recreation Commission (PRC) about signage. Ms. Rasmussen and Ms. Eliason still need to connect on this. Ms. Rasmussen has compared Featherland and other areas and will ask about design/color scheme, etc. Hudson Road will also need review from Historic Districts Commission.
- Mr. Drobinski brought up how corrections on signage need to be done and Ms. Rasmussen confirmed this is part of the Contractor's punch list.
- Mr. Holtz added it would be beneficial to add a discussion of etiquette on the rail trail
 - Mr. Drobinski added that this could be added to the Kiosks.
- Mr. Holtz also asked about gravel on trail
 - Expect much of it was kicked up from construction vehicles driving and is expected to stabilize and settle down.
- Ms. Eliason asks about current operations in Concord and learned that the barrier has been removed.
- Mr. Pransky discussed how paving on MCRT could begin in the spring, noting that as you reach the end of the paved path heading toward Wayland, DCR suggested some temporary signage on how to get to the rest of the (paved) trail. He plans to reach out to Wayland on this. He will also raise what temporary alternative paths may look like. To be discussed further at the next meeting.

Public Comment:

- Chris Menge (9 Fern Trail):
 - Comment on Mr. Holtz's query about etiquette. BFRT rules signs address some of this such as keep to the right, pass on the left, etc.

Minutes Approval:

November 6, 2024

- Motion to Approve by Mr. Drobinski, Second by Mr. Pransky. Unanimously approved.

December 1, 2024

- Motion to Approve by Mr. Drobinski, Second by Mr. Pransky. Unanimously approved.

Future meeting dates were discussed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30PM.