



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/bftr/>

MINUTES

MAY 5, 2025 AT 6:30 PM

VIRTUAL MEETING

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

Others Present: Marcia Rasmussen, Planning & Community Development Department

Meeting called to order 6:30PM to consider two articles that will be discussed at the 2025 Annual Town Meeting.

Article 54 – A petition article to decrease the CPA Surcharge from 3% to 1-1/2%:

- Chair John Drobinski noted that the CPA funds have been instrumental in providing money that allowed the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (BFRT) project to move forward through design and land acquisition (of the former CSX railroad right-of-way). He observed that the 3% rate had been adopted in 2001, which has provided funding toward land preservation, historic preservation, and housing, in addition to the BFRT.
- Laurie Eliason concurred, noting that she has seen how the Community Preservation Act has benefitted the Sudbury community and that she believes there will continue to be a need. She added that the Community Preservation Committee does a very thorough review of each project application that is submitted for funding consideration.
- Ken Holtz agreed with the need to retain the 3% rate, remarking that a reduction in the funding has the potential of causing greater harm to the community.
- Glenn Pransky remarked that the use of Community Preservation funds can often unlock other funding, such as the funds granted by MassTrails for land acquisition and design of the BFRT, and added that when such funds are not available as a match, the Town suffers because it is unable to move forward with an important project.

John Drobinski moved that the RTAC does not support Article 54. Glenn Pransky seconded. All VOTED in favor of the motion.

Article 43 – Funding of acquisition of MBTA Building:

- Chair John Drobinski noted that Historical Commission Chair Chris Hagger had requested support for Article 43 from the Rail Trails Advisory Committee. He added that the two MBTA-owned buildings along the Mass Central Rail Trail were “Crumble Station” (the former ticket station off Union Ave.) and the Section Tool House (near Route 20/Boston Post Road and Mill Village), which were good locations to interpret Sudbury’s railroad history.

- Glenn Pransky added that the Section Tool House is very important to the Commonwealth because it is only one of two remaining in existence in the State. He shared his observation that both properties were in relatively good shape and suggested that it would be great to keep them that way.
- Both Laurie Eliason and Ken Holtz expressed support for Article 43.

John Drobinski moved that the RTAC support Article 43 for the acquisition of the two MBTA-owned structures on the Mass Central Rail Trail. Laurie Eliason seconded. All VOTED in favor of the motion.

There were no other Annual Town Meeting Articles to be considered for support by the RTAC.

The RTAC members expressed interest in conducting a site walk later this spring, suggesting that 5:00 p.m. or later would be a good time to start. Marcia Rasmussen suggested sending possible dates to the RTAC members via email to confirm availability.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM.