



Town of Sudbury

Rail Trails Advisory Committee

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MINUTES

JUNE 18, 2025 AT 7:30 PM

VIRTUAL MEETING

Members Present: John Drobinski (chair), Glenn Pransky, Laurie Eliason, and John Sugrue

Others Present: Marcia Rasmussen, Planning & Community Development Department

Meeting called to order 7:30PM

Update from Chair:

- Chair Drobinski shared his observations of strong community engagement and positive feedback from trail users while out walking with his dog.

Staff Update:

- Phase 2D Construction
 - Upcoming milestones for MassDOT include substantial completion in July 2025 and likely final completion in September 2025. Prior to these the public may use the trail at their own risk as it is not officially complete.
 - There will be a walk-through with town staff and MassDOT next Thursday, June 26th.
 - The Town is awaiting finalized paperwork from MassDOT for the non-participating construction items.
 - Some traffic signals have not been operating correctly, which has been reported to MassDOT. The issue is known and is to be reviewed by the contractor and MassDOT.
 - New signage planned for Parkinson Field driveway will need to be reviewed later this summer by the Select Board (because of Hudson Road right-of-way), Design Review Board, and the Historical Commission.
 - The Town received two proposals for the Parkinson entry design study which will be reviewed by Town staff and a recommendation to award will be submitted to the Town Manager.
- Phase 3 Design
 - The Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) endorsed the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) which includes funding for Phase 3 for 2030.

- The Framingham portion of their BFRT Phase 1 is at 10% design at this time. The goal is to be able to bid/build Sudbury and Framingham portions at the same time, if possible, to reduce construction impacts on residents.
- There was discussion about the potential need and opportunity for additional parking in the Union Ave./Chiswick Park area beyond the spaces currently being explored.
- Mass Central
 - DCR included 9 spaces (plus 1 handicapped accessible space) at the former railroad ticket office building, but the pavement installed does not meet code requirements for distance from structures and is being reviewed by the Town. A proposed solution is being prepared by the DCR design/engineer consultant.
 - RTAC discussed the need to begin mapping potential locations for trail connections to understand where they might occur, what properties are potentially partners, and the opportunity for grants to construct or improve such connections.
 - While the trail is still actively under construction people are using it; it was noted that people should stay off the sides of the trail as grass is being seeded and to use caution as construction is ongoing with machinery and crews on the trail.
- RTAC membership appointments as recommended by the Committee were moved to the July Select Board meeting.

BFRT Sculpture at Broadacres Farm

- MassDOT confirmed that installation of the sculpture celebrating the BFRT can occur prior to the trail being completed and turned over to Town for maintenance responsibility provided neither MassDOT nor the contractor are responsible for installation, damages, or any other portion of the work.
- There was discussion about the potential location and possible uses of the proposed sculpture location by Parks & Recreation in the future (based on the recently completed Fields Needs Assessment). There is no definitive plan for the area in terms of field location, size, or other concepts, but in general the current thinking is this area will be used for playing fields. Members of the committee suggested the sculpture should be located directly abutting the new concrete pad installed as part of the BFRT to minimize impact to the overall field area and provide the best access to the art from the trail and gathering area. The RTAC voted 4-0 in support of the proposed location adjacent to the new concrete pad with final location, base size, and other details to be determined in consultation with the Parks Department, Select Board, and Town Manager.

Public Comment:

- Linda Faust, 189 Boston Post Road, asked about additional access to the trails, especially near the Coolidge development, as well as concerns about safety for users given the limited locations currently available. John Drobinski reiterated that the RTAC is exploring opportunities for access, but there are also challenges throughout the corridor with wetlands and other issues as this was a rail corridor.
- John McQueen, 265 Hudson Road, suggested the Broadacres field study, when undertaken, look at orienting the fields in a way that discourages parking in the lot adjacent to the BFRT for users of the park. He also noted the amount of people parking at

Station Road and Union Avenue and that it may become an issue if additional parking is not created in that area.

- Laurie Eliason confirmed that there are no specific plans for fields or layouts at Broadacres at this time. A design study would need to be done to determine the ultimate use and layout.
- John Drobinski noted that the original concept for the parking at Broadacres was and continues to be that it is for everyone, not specific to the rail trail. John McQueen commented that Morse Road is too narrow to accommodate overflow parking.
- Chris Menge, 9 Fern Trail, gave an update on conversations around \$50,000 in the state budget for the trail. The money would be for capital expenses, such as a leaf blower or other trail maintenance equipment, and would be done through the Friends of the BFRT. The Friends would need to purchase the equipment and then donate to the Towns of Acton and Sudbury. Further conversations will need to happen with each town's DPW to determine what equipment would be desired.

Minutes Approval:

May 21, 2025

- Motion to Approve by Chair Drobinski, Second by Mr. Sugrue. All voted in favor.

The date of the next RTAC meeting in July was discussed and will be set following confirmation that a quorum of members will be available either on the 9th or 16th.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.