



Town of Sudbury

Rail Trails Advisory Committee

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MINUTES

May 21, 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 acknowledged an excellent plan review session with Fuss & O'Neill staff as well as the virtual meeting of the MassDOT 25% Design Public Hearing conducted on May 15th at the Goodnow Library community room.

Staff Update:

- Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (BFRT) Phase 2D: Many questions have been asked about when the BFRT will open; MassDOT has not yet signed off on the construction work and Town staff have not yet conducted a final walk-through. The Town is waiting for documentation from MassDOT to allow the transfer of funds for work considered as non-participating. The work must be accepted by MassDOT before the trail can be officially open to the public. The Contract is scheduled to end June 30th. The new traffic signals at the Hudson and Peakham intersection have been certified by the MassDOT traffic group and responsibility for all the new traffic signals (including the RRFBs (Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons) at the trail/road crossings) has been transferred to the Town. A fallen tree near Codjer Lane is responsibility of the property owner. New signs near the Parkinson Field driveway entrance are being designed and will require approval by several Boards. Lastly, two proposals have been received for the consulting services needed for the Parkinson Field driveway and parking lot redesign.
- Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (BFRT) Phase 3: The 25% Design Public Hearing was held on Thursday, May 15th and included presentations by David Shedd (MassDOT) and Nick Lapointe (Fuss & O'Neill). Both Sudbury Phase 3 and Framingham Phase 1 will hopefully be advertised in the fall of 2028 with construction to begin concurrently to minimize impacts to residents. Framingham residents and Sudbury Water District representatives were able to examine the plans available at the Goodnow Library community room. Plans are also available on the Town's website. Marcia has been attending MPO and TIP meetings to ensure that the funding for this section's construction stays on track. The Sudbury Select Board finalized letters of support for

completing both the MCRT in Sudbury and Wayland. A new parking area off Union Ave. (on Chiswick Park property) could accommodate up to 18 vehicles, with the preliminary cost for permitting and design estimated around \$55,000.

- Massachusetts Central Rail Trail (MCRT): The asphalt base course has been installed along the entire length of the trail with the final top coat to be done in June and in the fall. Active work ongoing now to install fencing and foliage. There are some problems with paving around the “Crumble Station” building and DCR and their consultant is working on a solution. A porta-potty pad was added near the “Crumble Station” and was approved as an after-the-fact submission by the Conservation Commission. The RTAC will look for a competitive bid for porta-potties (at Davis Field, Morse Rd./Broadacres Farm and the Diamond intersection) and anticipates submitting a grant application to request funding from the Friends of the BFRT, as they have funded this amenity in other communities.

Seeking Partnership/Support for an Adaptive Cycling Program: Karen Vostok, a member of the Sudbury Commission on Disability (the Commission), presented the concept of an adaptive cycling program, perhaps a 2-year plan to create an adaptive cycling culture in Sudbury and surrounding towns. She shared her research of different models, noting that Acton and Concord have purchased adaptive bikes for use, while others partner with a provider who brings the equipment. Some of the concerns associated with purchasing equipment include: a variety of adaptive bikes/equipment are needed to address various needs, required staff training, housing and maintaining the bikes, and, teaching users and their caregivers/assistants how to use the bikes/equipment. Natick partnered with non-profit organization, All Out Adventures, which provides adaptive bikes for a fee of \$2500 per Saturday session. They have 60 different bikes to choose from (depending on the disability to be accommodated) and offer 1-on-1 training to users. The Commission favors the same approach for Sudbury and wants to partner with the RTAC on this initiative. Ideally, the Commission hopes to schedule 4- 6 Saturday sessions per year, maybe to be expanded later with other towns’ participation. Volunteers could be engaged to assist; however, All Out Adventures takes care of everything. The Commission plans to raise the necessary funds, so there would be no cost to the Town. August 23rd and other dates in September and October are available. For each date, one-hour time slots are available for each rider, and each date can accommodate 30-40 riders. Registration in advance is needed to ensure that the appropriate bike/equipment is available. Every rider has a one-on-one buddy for support – unless they clearly have someone to help them. Ideal dates and times (perhaps earlier on Saturdays) can be discussed at another meeting and identifying the best parking and point of access location (Parkinson Field off Hudson Road or Davis Field on North Road were noted).

The RTAC **VOTED** unanimously to partner with the Commission on Disability on this program.

Candidates for RTAC members interviewed for 2 open positions:

Rob Williams – Sudbury resident for 30 years, raised family here, has followed and supported BFRT development for years, and frequently uses trail for biking. He’s excited about giving back to the town and thought this would be a good opportunity to get involved. Benefits of the trail include safe access for senior citizens, access to playing fields; he encourages the RTAC to

think about opportunities to use the trail. Key future issues for him are maintenance, promoting usage, linking rail trails to adjacent trails and the larger non-motorized network.

Mike Anderegg – also a 30-year Sudbury resident, raised 3 children here, and finds living near nature and being active is important for his family. Wants to work on: publicizing the rail trail because he is concerned that people still don't know about it, ensuring that people understand trail etiquette, partnering with local businesses (as in Acton near Great Rd) to encourage visitors to trail and businesses, and engaging local charities – such as a DFCI PMC kids ride on the trail. Sees a need to plan for future capital expenses and taking the opportunity for giving / donations. Great to have safe option for after-school activities – kids can ride their bikes. Seniors can enjoy the scenery.

Chris Menge – 40-year Sudbury resident, partially retired and has time available. He's been involved in early surveys of the trails to evaluate amenities, encourages Sudbury residents to support BFRT-related ballot items, and has educated people about the benefits of rail trails. He's active in the Friends of the BFRT, providing them with progress updates and presentations. He's a Sudbury Valley Trustees (SVT) volunteer, assisting with design of the accessible trail at Wolbach Farm, and is interested in developing an accessible trail in Memorial Forest. He has extensive experience with physical disability issues and accommodations that's relevant to the trails. Wants to see improved connections to other trails and destinations; enabling people to use the trail instead of roads (prioritizing connections to Wayland and local businesses – especially Meadow Walk and Mill Village).

Jason Wellemeyer – a 7-year Sudbury resident with three children in the Sudbury schools, who is interested in being of service to the Town. He's active in town sports, is an avid runner on the trails with his children, and has found that the rail trails been a huge benefit for he and his family. He hopes people appreciate the benefits of this resource to the town. He wants to encourage the variety of trail users and ensure that they can safely and considerately share the space. He observed that the rail trail could support field trips for kids and commented that the historical/interpretive panels were a great addition to the trail. He asked whether there could be regular trash pick-up community days to help maintain the trails.

The RTAC **VOTED** unanimously to recommend to the Select Board that Chris Menge and Jason Wellemeyer be appointed to the RTAC as Full Members, and recommend the appointment of Rob Williams and Mike Anderegg as Associate Members of the RTAC.

Member Reports and Updates

Members agreed with the interviewees that the community and the RTAC needs to think about interconnectivity – where residents are close but can't safely get to the trails. The May 20th Select Board meeting featured a discussion about rail trail connections and Route 20 businesses, with similar issues regarding shops near the Town center. Wayfinding signage might be important, as well as constructing sidewalks. Some towns have hired an economic development coordinator to assist with improving connections - perhaps RTAC would advocate for this position in the future. This was also recommended in the recent Route 20 study. It was suggested that interconnectivity be a topic for future meetings – using maps to consider the constraints that may be encountered, as well as the opportunities.

Public Comment:

Len Simon of Meadowbrook Circle presented photos of the completed sculpture for the BFRT that had been approved by the RTAC and Select Board, and noted that it is ready for placement. He feels that the ideal location should not be too close to the travel path on the trail, as trail users may stop to look at it thereby creating a safety hazard. He suggested that a location near the Morse Rd./Broadacres Farm parking lot hydration station might be ideal, where its visible from the trail but not obstructing passage nearby, and easily accessible. This would require a concrete pad for installation. Laurie Eliason commented that the proposed location might be in the area of future field development so this should be reviewed by the Parks and Recreation Commission. RTAC will review the information provided and discuss this at the next regular meeting.

Minutes Approval:

May 5, 2025

- Motion to Approve by Mr. Drobinski, Second by Mr. Pransky. All **VOTED** in favor.

The RTAC discussed possible dates to conduct a site walk of the trail and asked Ms. Rasmussen to send out a list of dates once new members have been appointed. The next RTAC meeting will be June 18, 2025. Future meeting dates in July and August were also discussed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:33 PM.