



# Town of Sudbury

## Rail Trails Advisory Committee

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### MINUTES

September 17, 2025 – 7:30 PM

### Virtual Meeting

**Members Present:** John Drobinski (Chair), Glenn Pransky, Ken Holtz, Jason Wellemeier, Chris Menge

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

Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM by Chair John Drobinski.

#### Update from Chair:

Chair Drobinski noted the passing of Dick Williamson, a long-time supporter of the Rail Trail and commented on an event celebrating his life on September 14<sup>th</sup>.

The Bruce Freeman Rail Trail is currently “open” but an official opening has not yet taken place and the Town has not yet assumed responsibility for the maintenance of the trail. The public is urged to observe safety measures and be alert to traffic when crossing roadways and driveways.

The Mass Central Rail Trail is still under construction but seeing active use from cyclists and walkers. These trail users should also observe caution when crossing local streets.

#### Staff Update – BFRT Phase 2D

- Ms. Rasmussen reported that the final walkthrough with MassDOT has been scheduled for October 1<sup>st</sup>.
- The town may soon be in a position to accept maintenance responsibility and move forward with other trail-related work not included in the State contract.
- Email received from MassDOT regarding a possible grand opening in late September or early October.
- The sculpture installation at the Morse Road/Broadacres Farm parking lot has been delayed due to concerns raised by members of the Park and Recreation Commission as well as the general public. However, the ground-mounted pedestal for the Hop Brook interpretive panel has been delivered and the in-the-ground pedestal for Broadacres Farm can be installed.
- Mr. Holtz inquired as to who has authority on the final location for the sculpture and was informed that the Town Manager is the final decision-maker.
- The traffic signal issues at the Hudson Road/Peakham Road intersection appears to have stabilized.
- There are ongoing concerns about cyclists’ behavior when crossing local streets and driveways that they are not slowing down or stopping when there is traffic. The Planning Office is coordinating with DPW and Police to address these concerns.

- Mr. Pransky asked whether there had been any progress on the idea of improving the Thompson Road path for use by high school students. Ms. Rasmussen noted this was not part of the current design and would require action from the Committee and possible involvement from the school.

#### **Staff Update continued - Phase 3 Trail Extension**

- Design of the section from Chiswick Park driveway to Framingham is progressing with no major issues. Design comments from MassDOT have been incorporated and work is moving into the detailed design phase.
- Revised trail profile is complete resulting in no required removal of earth materials.
- Additional design elements are currently being considered.
- The Nobscot Road parking area grading has been revised to reduce wetland impacts.
- There have been no additional updates from the City of Framingham on its design efforts for the next phase of the trail.

#### **Staff Update continued - Mass Central Rail Trail**

- Top course paving of the trail has been completed, with the exception of the Diamond intersection, the parking lot at Chiswick Park driveway and the Boston Post Road crossing.
- MassDOT is reviewing crossing designs for Route 20/Boston Post Road; final approval is still pending.
- Barrels have been placed at road intersection to alert drivers approaching the trail crossings.
- Initial meetings have been held with SVT to discuss access to ecologically sensitive areas and possible signage or designated access points. A site walk has been scheduled for September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

#### **Staff Update continued - Parkinson Field Driveway**

- An initial meeting was held with Peter Ellison, Project Manager for TEC, Inc.
- TEC has reached out to Ti-Sales staff to discuss access to the property for wetlands flagging and survey.
- A preliminary plan has been prepared showing 69 parking spaces for Parks & Rec use serving Parkinson Field and the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail.
- The project may be costly, involving electric, water, stormwater management, and paving.

#### **Staff Update continued - CPC Applications**

- Ms. Rasmussen is using the information prepared by Mr. Pransky and Mr. Menge in the presentation to the Select Board as the basis for a CPC application to design and construct accessible connections from the MCRT to the Town-owned Hop Brook Marsh Reservation and SVT-owned Memorial Forest. The application is expected to be submitted by the September 21<sup>st</sup> deadline.
- At its September meeting, the Select Board updated the RTAC mission statement and endorsed the CPC application presented by the RTAC. Additional sculptures may be included.
- A Community Preservation Act application for construction of the Parkinson Field driveway and parking lot, sponsored by the Planning & Community Development Office in collaboration with Parks, Recreation and Aquatics Department, is also being prepared for submittal by the posted deadline.

### **Memorial Benches - discussion**

- Discussion held on incorporating memorial benches into the trail system was revisited after the Friend of the BFRT, in concert with the family of Dick Williamson, expressed interest in installing a bench or plaque in honor of Dick.
- Committee discussed the need to:
  - Provide clear guidelines and sample language for future memorial gifts
  - Identify which of the 18 available benches will be used first
  - Determine plaque installation process, cost, and town review requirements
- Mr. Menge will continue discussions with the Williamson family regarding this request.

### **Member Updates**

- Mr. Wellemyer suggested inviting Officer Perideau to an upcoming meeting to discuss trail safety and enforcement. Ms. Rasmussen noted that this request must go through Chief Nix and proper channels.
- Mr. Pransky raised concern about horses on the trail. He noted the trail is not designed for equestrian use and recommended aligning with other communities along the BFRT that prohibit horses. Committee members agreed this should be added as a formal recommendation to the Select Board on the next meeting agenda.
- Mr. Holtz noted that there were a large number of cars parked along the driveway near Crumble Station. Ms. Rasmussen mentioned that she had received complaints from local business owners regarding that parking. Mr. Drobinski has been in discussion with the owner of Chiswick Park to explore alternative parking options.
- Mr. Pransky mentioned a history talk from someone in Waltham and will share a link in the meeting notes.

### **Public Comments**

- No public comments were made.

### **Approval of Minutes**

- Minutes from August 6, 2025, were reviewed with no revisions.
- Motion to approve by Mr. Drobinski, seconded by Pransky. Approved unanimously.

### **Next Meetings**

- October 15, 2025
- November 19, 2025
- December 10, 2025 (tentative)