



# Town of Sudbury

## Rail Trails Advisory Committee

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### MINUTES

**March 4, 2026 – 7:30 PM**

### VIRTUAL MEETING

**Members Present:** John Drobinski, John Sugrue, Chris Menge, Glenn Pransky

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

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

#### Update from Chair:

- Chair Drobinski observed that there's been a lot of snow and not a lot of activity on the BFRT. He noted that he will be meeting with John McQueen to discuss a proposed "Bike Safety Roadeo" at the Curtis Middle School to be scheduled in May or June. Also, in following up about wayfinding programs and signage after the last meeting, preliminary discussions with the Chamber of Commerce have suggested reaching out to the broader business community along the rail trails with the RTAC hosting a presentation about wayfinding and accessibility for businesses.

#### Staff Update:

- Town staff continues to receive complaints about traffic signals; signals at the Peakham/Hudson intersection and at North Road are under the purview of the Town, while the RRFBs (rectangular rapid flashing beacons) continue to be the responsibility of the Contractor.
- Lawn signs to alert trail users to use the button to activate the flashing lights are underway in hopes to have them ready for spring once the snow is clear.
- **BFRT Phase 2D**
  - Working with Fuss & O'Neill on a revised ramp design for compliant access from Broadacres Farm parking lot to the rail trail. If the proposed solution is considered a simple change it can be done by the Conservation Commission administratively. If determined to be a more significant change then it could require public hearing.
  - Once the ramp design has been approved, it's anticipated that the Contractor will reconstruct the ramp this spring.
- **BFRT Phase 3**
  - Fuss & O'Neill has submitted 75% Phase 3 design to MassDOT. Plans will be posted to town website so they can be reviewed.
  - Boston MPO discussing that some projects have been delayed in the TIP program so there is a chance the BFRT Phase 3 project could move ahead by a year.

- Framingham is working on 25% Design. Preliminary plans were submitted to MassDOT for comment with a formal submittal of the 25% later this spring. The goal is to have Phase 3 Sudbury and Phase 1 Framingham move ahead at the same time.
- **Mass Central**
  - Route 20 signal equipment has not yet been delivered, but construction will likely begin April 1<sup>st</sup> and be completed this spring/summer.
- A draft license agreement for use of the Chiswick Park parcels south of the existing driveway for parking was sent to the owners in February. Marcia will follow-up to confirm any questions / comments.
- Parkinson Field Driveway and Parking Lot – Design Engineer TEC is considering trade-offs of 20-foot driveway vs 18-foot driveway. The Town needs to confirm information whether there is an existing utility easement for overhead electric lines to Ti-SALES. Additionally, Ti-SALES is using some of town land for parking and vehicle maneuvering. DPW and Planning will schedule a follow up meeting after the snow melts.
- The Community Preservation Committee has asked about the remaining CPC funds appropriated for construction of BFRT Phase 2D and has been informed about the additional items to be considered by the RTAC. However, none of these things can be done until the project has been completed by the Contractor and responsibility turned over to the Town.
- Town staff met with the president of the Chamber of Commerce, who suggested a meeting with members and other businesses located along the rail trails to present an update about the trails and show wayfinding ideas for future use. The discussion included holding an evening zoom meeting to introduce the ideas and then have a spring site walk with interested businesses. John D. also suggested that the Planning Board be invited to join that meeting, especially if there's focus on Route 20/Boston Post Road.
- The Select Board has not finalized letter of support to MassDOT regarding designation of three local streets as part of the U.S. Bicycle Route #1 because they are waiting for input from Police and Public Works.
- The pollinator garden project initially proposed by an Eagle Scout candidate for the rail trail access ramp at Parkinson Field has been relocated to Bina Farms because the farm is able to support ongoing maintenance of the garden and will use it for educational purposes.
- No current update related to BFRT Phase 2 in Framingham was available.

#### **Member Updates:**

- RTAC member Glenn Pransky presented observations about his tour of rail trails in the southeast.
  - Pinellas Trail has 50 murals within ½ mile of the trail.
  - Greenville, SC Swamp Rabbit Trail connects into downtown and is one of the top attractions in the state. They have a signage system with maps similar to the signs in Acton/Concord related to businesses.
  - Many trails have eliminated wood boardwalks or bridges in favor of concrete/steel because of easier maintenance and longevity.
  - Many of these trails have advantages over the situation in the northeast with more land available and county-level governance to oversee construction, easements, and, land acquisition which streamlines the process.

- RTAC member Chris Menge was contacted by the Retired Men's Association of MetroWest which has 100 members that meet monthly in Sudbury. They invited Chris to give a presentation on rail trails next Friday 3/13 about Sudbury's trails.

**Public Comment:**

- No Comments

**Approval of Minutes:**

- Minutes of the February 4, 2026 meeting were reviewed. Mr. Drobinski moved to approve them, Mr. Pransky seconded, and were unanimously approved.

**Next Meetings:**

- April 15, 2026
- May 20, 2026

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.