



Town of Sudbury

Rail Trails Advisory Committee

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MINUTES

April 15, 2026 - 7:30PM

VIRTUAL MEETING

Members Present: Glenn Pransky, Ken Holtz, Laurie Eliason, Chris Menge, Jason Wellemeyer

Others Present: Marcia Rasmussen, Planning & Community Development Department

Meeting called to order at 7:30PM by Acting Chair Glenn Pransky. Mr. Wellemeyer volunteered to be the minute taker for this meeting.

Update from Acting Chair:

- Acting Chair Pransky notes that trails are being used and there are people emailing and bringing up potential issues
- Chair Pransky discussed various trail projects across the state, including progress in Berlin and Belchertown, and plans for a cross-state ride in September.
- Chair Pransky also shared observations about kayaking conditions and wildlife in the area. The group discussed issues with dumping and unauthorized activities in Memorial Forest, noting that enforcement appears to be more effective due to increased trail usage.

Staff Update:

- Ms. Rasmussen provided extensive updates on Phase 2D construction issues at Broadacres Farm, including accessibility concerns and plans to move boulders and install accessible picnic tables.
- The Committee discussed upcoming Town Meeting articles 26 and 36 regarding long-term lease of land for possible parking area near the Diamond intersection and Community Preservation Act (CPA) funding for accessibility improvements on the Mass Central Rail Trail (MCRT).
- Mr. Menge shared information about a Curtis Middle School civics project proposal to remove snow and ice from rail trails in winter, which sparked discussion about feasibility and costs. Ms. Eliason raised concerns about trail debris and narrowing issues that need maintenance attention.
- The Committee also discussed potential future connections to local businesses and destinations like Duck Soup and Sky Bar. Meeting minutes from March and April were approved, and the next meetings were scheduled for May 20th, June 3rd, and July 15th.
- Ms. Rasmussen provided updates on several infrastructure projects. The team is working with MassDOT to resolve issues at the Broadacres Farm parking lot and ramp, specifically addressing accessibility concerns. Plans for accessible picnic tables and new drinking fountains are being developed, with discussions about redesigning the plaza area to improve functionality and accessibility.
- Ms. Rasmussen also reported progress on traffic signal issues and yard sign installations, while noting that Phase 3 design plans are under review by MassDOT with potential for faster

implementation if other projects on the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) are not yet ready to move forward.

- Ms. Rasmussen provided updates on several ongoing projects, including the Town Meeting warrant article for a long-term lease, the Sudbury Police Department's resolution of unauthorized winter plowing on rail trails, and progress on the Parkinson Field driveway and parking lot with plans to meet with TEC and Ti-SALES later in the spring. She reported that the Community Preservation Committee accepted the explanation for not returning BFRT 2D funds due to incomplete rail trail work and announced a planned presentation on wayfinding and rail trail plans to the business community on May 26th at the Goodnow Library.
- Acting Chair Pransky offered to share slide decks about wayfinding standards and examples from other communities, though he noted he would not be able to attend in person on May 26.
- The Committee discussed issues with traffic signal buttons not working properly at multiple intersections, including Hudson Road, Old Lancaster, and Morse Road.
- The Committee also learned about an upcoming safety “roadeo” planned for May 31st at Curtis Middle School, which will provide bicycle safety training and information to 5th grade students and is seeking volunteers for the event.

Town Meeting Articles Discussion:

- The group discussed two town meeting articles (26 and 36) related to land use and accessibility. They agreed to seek endorsements from various town committees including the Commission on Disability, Planning Board, Conservation Commission, and Council on Aging before the May 4th Annual Town Meeting.
- Ms. Rasmussen volunteered to email committee heads to request agenda items and votes of support for these articles. Mr. Holtz noted that the Conservation Commission would meet on April 27th to discuss potential endorsement.
- The Committee voted unanimously to support Articles 26 and 36 at Town Meeting, with Mr. Pransky and Ms. Eliason offering to speak in favor if needed.

Member Reports and Updates

- Mr. Menge updated the group about a request from Curtis Middle School students for a civics action project involving plowing the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail in winter, noting that while no formal plowing programs exist in nearby towns, Arlington and Lexington do clear snow from the Minuteman Trail for commuter safety. Committee members discussed potential challenges, including costs, logistics, and the feasibility of partial trail clearing. Ms. Eliason suggested encouraging the students to conduct a town survey to gauge public opinion on the proposal. The Committee also addressed concerns about trail debris and narrowing, with Ms. Eliason sharing photos of accumulated debris affecting trail width. The Committee agreed that C. Menge would discuss these points with the students and encourage them to consider a survey as part of their civics project.
- Ms. Eliason raised concerns about trail maintenance issues between Hudson and Morse Road, where the path has become narrow and overgrown. Ms. Rasmussen explained that the town has not yet accepted maintenance responsibility for the trail due to ongoing issues with Broadacres

Farm area, which must be addressed before formal acceptance can occur. Mr. Pransky suggested Ms. Eliason make a case to Public Works and the Town Manager about addressing the organic buildup on the trail to prevent more permanent damage, and Ms. Eliason agreed to send photos to support this request.

- Mr. Pransky provided updates on potential ribbon cutting events for the MCRT in mid-summer and the upcoming Mass Trails feature of the Sudbury-Hudson section.

Trail Connection Planning Discussion

- The meeting focused on discussing potential trail connections to destinations like Duck Soup and Sky Bar, with Mr. Pransky and Ms. Eliason highlighting three priority areas: Meadow Walk, Mill Village, The Coolidge, along with other locations.
- Mr. Pransky mentioned DCR's willingness to assist with these connections despite some constraints, and Mr. Menge noted that pedestrian bridges could be relatively simple and affordable.

Minutes Approval:

- Mr. Pransky asked for public comments. None raised
- The Committee approved minutes from March 2026 and April 2025, and discussed upcoming meeting dates.
- May 20th and June 3rd (preference), July 15th (TBD)
- The conversation ended with positive remarks about the growing popularity of the trails in Sudbury.

Meeting Adjourned 8:46PM