



Town of Sudbury

Rail Trails Advisory Committee

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MINUTES

May 19, 2026 - 7:30PM

VIRTUAL MEETING

Members Present: John Drobinski, Laurie Eliason, Chris Menge, Glenn Pransky, John Sugrue, Jason Wellemeyer

Others Present: Marcia Rasmussen, Planning & Community Development Department

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

Update from Chair:

- Chair Drobinski noted there will be a bike “road-eo” for young riders (5th-graders) to develop their bike safety skills, on May 31, at Curtis Middle School, coordinated by John McQueen with support from the Sudbury Police Dept. Volunteers are encouraged! 20 attendees are signed up so far, with more expected.
- Chair Drobinski reminded RTAC members of the presentation and discussion about wayfinding on the rail trails that is scheduled for Tuesday, May 26 from 6:30 to 8:00 pm at Goodnow Library – 6:30 is the one-to-one discussion, and 7- 8 will be the presentation (virtual and in-person). Mr. Menge suggested that RTAC members wear name-tags so they could be more approachable. Invitations did not go out to all Sudbury businesses, but the Chamber of Commerce shared the flyer with its members and the meeting is posted on the Town’s website. The emphasis of the presentation will be economic development, improving business, and creating a friendly and welcoming environment. This continues the RTAC’s interest in engaging local businesses, and discussing parking and other issues that are already arising with them.
- Chair Drobinski noted that the Select Board was considering the restricted \$25,000 gift from the Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail at its meeting tonight. This gift would be used toward the purchase of capital equipment for maintenance of the trails.

Staff Update:

- Ms. Rasmussen provided the following updates:
- No ribbon cutting has been scheduled for the BFRT due to outstanding issues regarding accessibility at Broadacres Farm parking lot and access ramp and invasive species removal along the trail.
- Yard signs reminding trail users to go slowly and press the flashing light buttons are at all intersections, and all of the lights seem to be working properly.
- The Town received a notice of noncompliance about the Broadacres ramp to state accessibility laws and a Stipulated Order, so MassDOT and Fuss & O’Neill have been asked to help develop a plan to bring this into compliance. The Conservation Commission held a public hearing to review the proposed ramp revisions under the Wetlands Protection Act and local wetlands bylaw on May 11th with the hearing continued to June 15th for additional information. Fuss and O’Neill will prepare that

additional information. The Town is required to submit a report to the Architectural Access Board in response to the Stipulated order by June 21, 2026.

- Two handicap-accessible picnic tables will be installed to the right of the large boulders at the Broadacres parking lot on the BFRT. It has been suggested that the boulders in the plaza be relocated to the edge of the plaza, and the surface filled in so the tables can be moved to this flat paved area permanently.
- Ms. Rasmussen has been in contact with the original supplier of the hydration stations, to get a quote on an alternative hydration station where both the drinking fountain and the water-bottle filling station are fully accessible.
- Ms. Rasmussen noted the interest in constructing a shade pavilion in the Broadacres Farm area and has contacted the Facilities Department to get information about a similar installation being considered near the Fairbanks Community Center.
- There has been no progress on the Parkinson Field driveway and parking lot project because a meeting with the Department of Public Works and Ti-SALES staff has not yet been scheduled.
- A grant application to the Friends of the BFRT to support providing porta potties at Broadacres Farm parking area and the Diamond intersection will be submitted soon.
- The Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) has released the next draft of the Transportation Improvement Program that includes the Sudbury-Wayland section of the MCRT for FFY2028, BFRT Phase 3 is included in the FFY 2029 plan, and the Framingham BFRT Phase 1 portion is included in the FFY 2030 plan. Good to see that all are listed and on the schedule.
- The Town received the partial reimbursement from Mass Trails for the design of phase 3.
- The Chiswick Park LLC attorney is looking at the proposed license agreement for the proposed parking lot, and will connect with town counsel about moving this forward.
- Mass Central Rail Trail (MCRT) – construction is underway at the Union Ave. and Route 20 crossings, with a scheduled ribbon cutting at the Diamond on June 23 at 11 am – all RTAC members are invited. This will be followed by a bike ride at 1 pm heading west, coordinated by the MCRT Alliance.
- Funds for accessible trails development west of Dutton Rd. should be available from the Community Preservation fund around the middle of July, and the RTAC will contact the Conservation Commission and Public Works to help begin the design and construction process.

Member Reports and Updates

- Mr. Menge provided an update on his meeting with a middle school civics class interested in snow plowing trails, suggesting that a survey of residents about trail use (and potential for snow plowing) in the winter would be helpful as a next step.
- Mr. Wellemeyer spoke with Lt. Perodeau of Sudbury Police Department, who mentioned that he is planning to conduct information sessions on e-bike safety with younger users, and explain what vehicles aren't allowed on trails. He's also planning information sessions with parents.
- Mr. Sugrue noted that the State has recently clarified that class 1 e-bikes are the only ones allowed on state trails, others are prohibited. It was acknowledged that enforcement is challenging – members suggested informative signs that would help educate parents about what is and is not allowed, perhaps

by encouraging information dissemination through the high school, clarifying what equipment is and is not allowed.

Review and discussion of the draft Wayfinding presentation

Ms. Rasmussen ran through the draft presentation for the upcoming Wayfinding Forum and encouraged input from RTAC members. Suggestions included showing potential connections to various destinations that have been identified so far (i.e., Mill Village, Meadow Walk and the Coolidge), possible economic impacts (anecdotal information from Hudson and the economic benefits report from the MCRT) and ideas on how businesses could better accommodate trail users – picnic tables and outdoor dining, bike racks, signs advertising ice cream and drinks, parking, etc. And reaffirming that the RTAC is interested in ideas from businesses about what they would like to see, such as signs or maps with a QR code that could link to current information on where to go for food, etc.

Meeting attendee John McQueen, 265 Hudson Road, commented that ice cream is a proven draw noting the ice cream shop in Pepperell on the Nashua River trail is always busy. He asked about adding a thematic question about wayfinding – how could a rider with a family make this into more of an adventure – birding, historical features, etc. He asked whether businesses could be connected in some way to make a ride more of an adventure (e.g., reaching out to a local business such as Wild Birds Unlimited to host or lead a ride to view birds along the trail)?

Minutes Approval:

Minutes of March 17 were approved unanimously.

Next meeting dates - June 3, July 15, August 5 and Sept 16th

Meeting Adjourned 8:35 PM