



Town of Sudbury

Rail Trails Advisory Committee

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MINUTES

June 3, 2026 - 7:30PM

VIRTUAL MEETING

Members present: John Drobinski, Glenn Pransky, Ken Holtz, Christopher Menge.
Joined 7:51pm: Jason Wellemeyer

Others Present: Marcia Rasmussen (Interim Rail Trails Coordinator)

Meeting called to order at 7:32PM by Chair Drobinski. Mr. Holtz volunteered to be the minute taker for this meeting.

Chair Comments:

- The Mass Central Rail Trail (MCRT) ribbon-cutting is anticipated for Tuesday, June 23rd at 11:00 a.m.
- The Commission on Disability is hosting an adaptive cycling event on Saturday, June 6th; volunteers are still needed.
- Observation and thanks to the Sudbury Weekly which wrote a nice article about etiquette on rail trails.
- Observation that there are lots of signs popping up along the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (BFRT) and a suggestion that a future conversation around regulation of signage may be in order once town takes responsibility for maintaining the right-of-way

Staff Update:

- MassDOT is awaiting results of Fuss & O'Neil presentation to the Conservation Commission of the revised access ramp design before coming back to town to schedule work. Additional information will be provided by Fuss & O'Neill for the June 15th Conservation Commission meeting.
- Ms. Rasmussen has researched an alternative drinking fountain design with both handicapped accessible drinking fountain and water-bottle filling station and is currently seeking quotes for purchasing this type of unit.
- BFRT Phase 3 funding for construction in FFY 2029 and 2030 is included in the latest Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP - FFY2027-2032). The MPO will vote on the latest TIP on Thursday, June 4, 2026.
- Construction on the Mass Central Rail Trail (MCRT) is progressing; Ms. Rasmussen presented photos of the rail trail crossing areas at Boston Post Road and Union Ave.
- Again, the ribbon cutting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 23rd at the Diamond Intersection.
- No update on Parkinson field work was presented.
- Wayfinding session took place May 26th at the Goodnow Library Community Room. Modest attendance in-person. Some folks attending online.

- Unfortunately, not many business owners attended the session. Ms. Rasmussen plans to reach out to the Chamber president and perhaps attend a future Chamber of Commerce meeting as well as more direct engagement with business owners. She noted the photos of the Mill Village and Chiswick park directories as a way of identifying businesses.
- Mr. Pransky proposed developing a script for members of the RTAC and dividing up outreach to local businesses as a way to get business owners' input in future wayfinding and outreach measures.
- The \$25,000 gift from the Friends of BFRT was accepted by the Select Board - this gift is restricted expressly for the purchase of equipment to maintain the rail trails in town.
- A Grant application was submitted to the Friends of the BFRT for two ADA-compliant portable restrooms. Additional quotes for these units are being sought for better pricing.
- Ms. Rasmussen reached out to Lieutenant Perodeau at the Sudbury Police Department for an update on the proposed "whistle stops" at various intersections and when they may occur. She learned that a bike bus is planned for students at Noyes school and the Checkpoints/Whistle stops will be developed over the summer, as well as another program to encourage good behavior of all rail trail users. The Police Department is also planning a community Q&A on e-bikes.
- Commission members discussed the success of the biking safety rodeo with 41 kids in attendance.

Wayfinding Forum:

- Ms. Rasmussen stated her intent to compile notes for the RTAC.
- Mr. Drobinski said there was good engagement from those in attendance
- Mr. Menge added there was positivity about the trails with enthusiasm for improving connections. It was noted that there are some restrictions for connections along Rt 20 due to that road being a state numbered highway.

Discussion - support for All Out Adventure events in 2026:

- The Flyer announcing upcoming events was shared with the RTAC.
- ADA-accessible porta-potties will be available for all of these events
- Soliciting additional volunteers from RTAC members for future events
- Kudos to Commission on Disability for organizing these events

MCRT Ribbon Cutting:

- RTAC members asked whether anyone from Select Board will make comments; to be determined.
- Cake and Water has been typically provided by Friends of the BFRT for similar events; however, this event is being organized by Eversource, so it's unclear who is providing what. The Friends are sponsoring a ride from the Diamond into Hudson after the ribbon-cutting event.

Committee Reports & Updates:

- Mr. Menge expressed his confusion around state rules concerning eBikes and is seeking some clarification.
 - o Mass Central only allows Class 1 eBikes on rail trails.
 - o Expectation that Class 3 bikes will not be permitted on trails.

Public Comments:

- Kay Bell reiterated kudos expressed about milestone and achievement of so many people and commissions over the decades. Looking forward to celebrating soon. Also, commented regarding adaptive cycling experience. Considering experience of tandem recumbent tricycle, Kay feels any

solution to ADA path being designed for BFRT should consider the large turning radius of such a vehicle.

Minutes for Approval May 20, 2026

Mr. Pransky moves to approve. Seconded by Mr. Wellemeyer. Minutes were unanimously approved by members attending.

Discussion around future meeting dates: July 15, August 5, September 16.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10PM.