



Town of Sudbury

Rail Trails Advisory Committee

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MINUTES

July 15, 2026 – 7:30 PM

VIRTUAL MEETING

Members Present: John Drobinski, Ken Holtz, Chris Menge, Jason Wellemeyer, Laurie Eliason

Others Present: Marcia Rasmussen, Interim Rail Trails Coordinator, Planning & Community Development; Erica O'Brien, Chair, Sudbury Cultural Council; Diana Peters, Chair, Subcommittee on Art on Rail Trails, Sudbury Cultural Council.

Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM by Chair John Drobinski, Mr. Menge volunteered to take minutes of the meeting.

Update from Chair:

- Chair Drobinski welcomed the two representatives of Sudbury's Cultural Council, Erica O'Brien and Diana Peters, who joined the meeting to discuss the potential for placing art along the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (BFRT) in Sudbury.

Discussion on art along the BFRT with Sudbury Cultural Council representatives.

- Council members have observed the circular concrete pads located along the BFRT that have been installed for displaying art.
- The Cultural Council applied for funding from the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) to create and place art along the trail.
- Council members have observed art installations along trails in other towns to gain some perspective on what might be appropriate for Sudbury. Ms. Peters indicated that the Council was interested in interactive art installations and added the Council's concerns about safety, materials, and maintenance. Ms. Eliason asked about the potential for murals, and voiced her ideas that the art reflect something about Sudbury – be it history, personalities, natural resources, and so forth. Ms. Peters noted that the subcommittee was brainstorming different ideas, but at this point in time the Council is focused on the four specific locations where concrete pads have been installed.
- The Council's subcommittee on art along the trail is preparing a Request for Proposals (RFP) to solicit proposals from artists; Planning and Community Development Director, Adam Burney, and CPC staff, Ryan Poteat, are working with the subcommittee.
- The Council also plans to send the RFP to the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) Arts and Cultural Services for distribution by August 1.
- Council members are open about the nature of the art that could be installed, but agree that it should fit the footprint of the existing concrete pads. They will also seek the artist's input or preference on which location/pad would be best for the artwork. Mr. Wellemeyer added that

there are many art installations along the trails in Newburyport and asked whether the Council is seeking “ready-to-go” artwork or new concepts. Ms. O’Brien stated that they are open to either approach.

- Ms. Peters added that the specifications of the concrete pads was needed – size and how attachments might be made. Ms. Rasmussen said that she can provide that information. Bolts and fasteners can be placed in the pads to which the art can be attached. The Concord “Go Out Doors” installations during Covid had U-shaped pieces in which the doors were placed. Ms. O’Brien indicated the method of installation would be the responsibility of the artist and that the RFP would also request maintenance ideas and require a maintenance plan for the first year.

Staff Update:

BFRT Phase 2D

- MassDOT notified the Town that it has accepted the Contractor’s response to the list of outstanding items and considers the project complete and, with the exception of the access ramp at Broadacres Farm, maintenance responsibility of the trail (including traffic signals) has been turned over to the Town.
- Ribbon-cutting expected later in 2026 to be scheduled by MassDOT District 3.
- The Town submitted its response to comments on handicapped accessibility at the Broadacres Farm parking area and access ramp from the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board (MAAB). The MAAB responded that the corrective measures appeared to be sufficient.
- Sudbury Conservation Commission accepted the proposed revisions to the Broadacres Farm access ramp to make it ADA compliant, which now involves lengthening the ramp into the parking lot and adding level areas. MassDOT says AA Will is preparing an estimate for the work. Ms. Rasmussen has requested that MassDOT consider the full scope of the remediation in the plaza area to be done by AA Will.
- Two handicapped accessible picnic tables for the Broadacres farm rest area have been received, and the Town has received a quote for an alternative hydration station that is more ADA compliant.
- Much information on the Town’s website on the BFRT is out of date and needs updating. Ms. Rasmussen said she would work on that this summer.

Ms. Eliason mentioned that the BFRT could use maintenance and asked about the DPW’s role and plans for maintaining the trail Ms. Rasmussen said that she would reach out to them and ask about their plans.

BFRT Phase 3

- After reading the MAAB’s notice regarding the Phase 2D accessibility issues, Ms. Rasmussen revisited the Phase 3 75% design submitted by Fuss & O’Neill. She found several elements that could be improved regarding accessibility as well as other issues. A memorandum addressing the elements that could be improved was sent to F&O on July 6.
- Town Counsel and Chiswick Park’s attorney will try to get an easement for the planned parking lot finalized. But more follow-up is needed.

- Framingham residents living on Eaton Road West reached out to Sudbury Planning staff regarding Phase 3 plans for their street. Ms. Rasmussen offered to respond to their questions.

Mass Central Rail Trail

- A ribbon-cutting event is scheduled for July 16th at 11:00 a.m. at the Diamond intersection.
- The remaining construction, including completion of the crossings at Route 20 and Union Avenue as well as some plantings along the trail are expected to be completed by mid-July.
- Advisory yard signs (similar to those on the BFRT), to alert cyclists and other trail users to be careful crossing public streets and to use the button at two locations, will be installed later in July.

Ms. Eliason asked about maintenance responsibilities for the MCRT. Ms. Rasmussen replied that the Town will only handle such issues as trees down across the trail, but that all other maintenance is the responsibility of the DCR.

Member Updates:

- Ms. Eliason mentioned that the Parks and Recreation Commission is beginning to think about improvements to Davis Field and Broadacres Farm fields for recreational uses. She mentioned that parking will be affected in both areas if there is increased formal recreation.

Public Comment:

- Len Simon asked about the schedule for the construction work at Broadacres Farm parking lot area. Ms. Rasmussen responded that the ramp work plans are at MassDOT and will go to AA Will for a quote; however, there is a formal federal process to extend the current contract and access any remaining funds which will take some time. She requested that AA Will provide a quote for the plaza and sculpture work as well. MassDOT will decide if AA Will can do that work or not, so a second contractor may be needed for the additional plaza work.

Approval of Minutes:

- Minutes of the June 3, 2026 meeting were reviewed. Mr. Drobinski moved to approve them, Mr. Menge seconded, and they were unanimously approved.

Next Meetings:

- August 5, 2026
- September 16, 2026

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30 pm.