Town of Sudbury

Rail Trails Advisory Committee

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MINUTES

October 7, 2026 – 7:30 PM

VIRTUAL MEETING

Members Present virtually via Zoom: John Drobinski, Christopher Menge, Glenn Pransky, Ken Holtz
Joined 7:31 Jason Wellemyer via Zoom
Joined later: Laurie Eliason and John Sugrue, via Zoom

Others Present: Marcia Rasmussen, Interim Rail Trails Coordinator

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

Update from Chair:

- Chair Drobinski commented that maintenance along the BFRT is underway; trail is looking great thanks to DPW.
- Informed Committee members about Community Preservation application for study of connectivity to the new rail trails.
- Noted safety discussion with Sudbury Police Department at last meeting
- Observed that planning for outreach to community businesses will be a topic for discussion tonight.

Staff Update:

- Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (BFRT) Phase 2D:
    - Variance request to the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board was submitted on September 21st regarding handicapped access remediation at the Broadacres Farm parking lot and plaza. The request was to extend construction work to October 1, 2027.
    - MassDOT will begin the Engineering Work Order (EWO) process once AA Will submits a proposal for the work identified in the approved plan. MassDOT anticipates a lump sum proposal of $125,000 to complete the work as outlined in the approved plan.
    - DPW mowing and trail maintenance started earlier than expected on September 21st.

  - Video received of 117/North Road HAWK not working well during rain events. The Town's contracting electrician determined that an electrical control panel was damaged and needed replacement; a panel has been ordered.
  - Adhesive failure on four of the interpretive panels fastened to granite posts will be remedied when the contractor returns to work.
- BFRT Phase 3:
  - Discussion between MassDOT and Fuss & O'Neill during the September 16th Comment Resolution Meeting included: the status of certain historic railroad artifacts along the trail; proposed traffic signal changes at Nobscot Road and potential impacts at Union Ave.; and, the need for review under the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA).
  - Information submitted by Fuss & O'Neill regarding culvert replacements resulted in a meeting with Conservation Coordinator to discuss revisions to the Phase 3 plans and information to be included in MEPA filing. A Notice of Intent is more likely to be filed in Sudbury in late spring 2027.
  - The attorney for Chiswick Park LLC is in discussion with Town Counsel regarding an initial license and later permanent easement for a small parking lot near the Diamond intersection.
  - A Community Preservation Act application has been submitted for $250,000 as suggested by the RTAC for the design of the Chiswick Park parking lot, easements for Phase 3, and non-participating elements of construction (e.g., water supply to ADA compliant drinking fountain, restoration of historic railroad artifacts, graphic panels for kiosk, invasive plant species removal, etc.).
- BFRT Framingham
  - Framingham Planning Director anticipates a MassDOT 25% Design Public Hearing in December and is hopeful to move up the project construction funding to 2028 in the next Transportation Improvement Plan, if possible
- Mass Central Rail Trail (MCRT)
  - Hoping to install advisory yard signs at street crossings next week.
- Parkinson Field driveway and parking lot
  - Most of the legal questions regarding easements and utilities have been resolved. Town staff will be meeting soon to discuss next steps and outreach to Ti-SALES' landowner and management team.
- Working with RTAC
  - Owners of Cavicchio's have not responded about the parking and access concerns recently expressed after reviewing Town Counsel information about Codjer Lane.
  - Trespassing at Fairview Farm continues and stop signs at the driveway crossing continue to be ignored. Funds for additional fencing and signage may be available after resolution of ADA compliance issues at Broadacres Farm.
    - Mr. Wellemyer later asked if more permanent and prominent signage could be installed. Ms. Rasmussen explained that there are a significant number of existing signs that people are still saying they miss or did not see.

    - Ms. Rasmussen and Mr. Pransky met to consider ways of approaching local businesses around the trails.
    - Following up on the idea of memorial plaques, Ms. Rasmussen is seeking input from the RTAC on who should be acknowledged as contributing to the trail. This sparked some discussion around who could and should be recognized.
- Ms. Eliason asked about work on Crumble Station getting a new roof. Ms. Rasmussen was not aware of any work going on but offered to look into it.
- Mr. Pransky asked about the ADA compliance project at Broadacres Farm and who will be responsible for the costs. Ms. Rasmussen clarified that MassDOT does plan to cover the cost of the ramp, but they have not yet confirmed. Additional separate work will likely be the responsibility of the Town since the plaza was constructed in accordance with the plans.

Outreach to local businesses:

- A draft questionnaire was shared with RTAC ahead of the meeting. Mr. Pransky explained the goal of the questionnaire then shared his screen with a draft of the questionnaire explaining the introduction and questions.
- Mr. Pransky thinks an interview may take 20+ minutes depending how much people have to say. The RTAC members had some discussion around conducting an in-person interview vs. a non-live email or leave behind document. Members also suggested the potential of a phone conversation. There was further discussion around how and who we engage with.
- RTAC members worked through dividing up who will outreach to various businesses listed by Ms. Rasmussen.
- Goal for completion: By November meeting to the extent possible.
- Mr. Menge suggested asking businesses about their interest in more formal connections to trails considering they are likely private property.
- RTAC is not allowed to use Google Docs for coordinating responses. Responses should be sent directly to Ms. Rasmussen who can combine and redistribute to the committee for future discussion during a meeting. Suggestions from businesses shared throughout the interview process should be sent directly to Ms. Rasmussen as well.

Committee Member Reports and Comments:

- Mr. Menge offered the following comments and questions from the Friends of the BFRT. Do we plan to put direction arrows at the roundabout at the diamond? Ms. Rasmussen responded that the RTAC can make recommendations/suggestions to DCR, but it not ultimately up to the town of Sudbury. Literature holders for pamphlets have been suggested at any kiosks. Ms. Rasmussen explained it can be difficult with the design of the kiosks; that we need to understand size of holders, funding of them, and who handles installation. Mr. Holtz suggested small plastic trifold pamphlet holders similar to what conservation does. Funding of purchase still an open item, but RTAC members could volunteer time to install
- Ms. Eliason raised Parks & Recreation's discussion of the uses at Davis Field and the possibility of paving the parking lot at that location.

- Mr. Pransky provided an update on the next plans for MCRT heading east through Sudbury into Wayland. He noted that a meeting with the Wayland Conservation Commission had been held and that the hearing before the Sudbury Conservation Commission is scheduled for October 19th. He noted that there was no potential date for construction at this time and raised riders concerns about the need to use Landham Road as a connection until additional trail sections have been completed.

Public Comment:

- Mr. Len Simon of Meadowbrook Circle provided several comments and questions.
    - He asked whether the advertising date for Phase 3 in Sudbury was in 2028 or 2029. Ms. Rasmussen explained that the construction funds are in Federal Fiscal Year 2029, which means advertisement could occur in October 2028. He then followed up wondering if the MEPA process would impact advertisement and Ms. Rasmussen explained that the additional time was within the current schedule of work.
    - Mr. Simon requested that he be provided a map showing where the discussed Chiswick Park parking area would be in relation to trails and commented that the Crumble Station parking spaces are very heavily utilized. He feels that additional parking at this location will be a great addition.
    - Mr. Simon suggested that if RTAC members are speaking with business owners that they explore the potential for sharing use of their parking lots with trail users. He suggested that regarding parking at larger stores, merchants may be very happy to have rail trail users use their space.
    - Regarding Broadacres Farm, Mr. Simon suggested that if the ramp construction and related work will be delayed until next Spring, perhaps some the plaza work could be accelerated so the sculpture provided by the Friends could be installed sooner. Mr. Drobinski commented on being careful about construction coordination at Broadacres Farm.
    - Concerning memorial plaques on benches, Mr. Simon thanked the RTAC for acknowledging Dick Williamson's contributions and highlighted some of the contributions he and others have made over time. Mr. Drobinski asked Mr. Simon to share any suggested names for recognition.

Minutes For Approval - Motion to accept the minutes of September 16, 2026 as written was made by Mr. Drobinski and Mr. Pransky seconded. All VOTED to approve with Ms. Eliason and Mr. Menge abstaining.

Meeting adjourned 8:59PM