

WPAC Meeting 1/25/17

In attendance: Carmen Jaquier, Deborah Ellwood , Joan Kennedy
and 3 guests.

Meeting called to order at 7:45PM.

Motion was made by Deborah to approve the meeting minutes from 12/15/16.
Seconded by Joan Kennedy. Approved.

Jim Lyon did a presentation on the current status of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (BFRT).

He had handouts that show the current and future phases of the work (available on the BFRT site at concordma.gov).

Jim noted that the DB White Construction Company had been hired and that Sudbury is still several years out before their portion would come online.

Jim also discussed details of the fencing that will be part of the Concord work in Phase 2C which runs from MCI to the culvert under Powder Mill Road near Stone Root Lane. This segment is scheduled to begin work Spring 2017. Opening date for Phase 2C is expected to be Spring/Fall 2019. The work will require closing this section of Powder Mill Rd. once school is out for the Summer. No estimate for when this portion of the work will be done and the road reopened.

There will be 2 rail fences along the vernal pool and the natural hill and there is a 520 foot long, 6 feet high ornamental metal fence shown on the construction plans and profiles documents for phase 2C. There will be 2 or 3 gates along this fence which will be locked but will allow resident access to the trail. This fencing is not final as there may be a funding issue for the more expensive ornamental fence. A letter has been written to Mass. DOT supporting this fence. Community Preservation Fund is another potential source of funding for this fencing.

The trail is a 10 foot wide paved surface with a 2 foot stone dust border apron. The border is wider near the pond, possibly 3-4 feet. There was concern expressed that this much new non-permeable surface in the watershed will have an impact on the pond.

The landscaping plan was discussed since anything with roots that will impact the trail will be removed. There will also be additional trees and shrubs removed for staging areas for the work machines and materials. The landscape plan is to make the disturbed areas as natural as possible and use native materials such as chokecherry, Viburnum, witch hazel, white pine and red maples. Phase 2C 100% plan sheet lists the plants and shrubs that will be used.

We had significant discussion about the entrance to the trail at Powder Mill Rd. and what will be done with the culvert that is the current end point of the trail until Sudbury does their portion of the work.

It was suggested that a letter be sent to Marsha Rasmussen and Delia (?) in the Spring about the landscaping plan to ensure all areas of potential erosion are addressed.

Jim will notify the WPAC when the site walk will be scheduled so we can be informed of the changes planned. Jim will also reply about purpose of the compost filter tubes shown on the plans. Carmen will attend the BFRT meetings to keep the WPAC informed.

There was discussion about the use of the White Pond Beach Association passes purchased by the town last Summer for Town residents to use. WPAC to inquire if this program will continue next Summer and offer residents a way to swim in the pond.

There was a discussion of \$168K that will be spent on erosion control for the pond. We will request Delia let us know when this work will start so we can organize volunteers to supplement the work.

Carmen will also ask if the Rangers will be continuing next Summer. It is believed that they had a significant impact on the unauthorized use of the pond and surrounding area.

We will plan to review the project priorities at the next meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:12.