

**Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee**  
**February 2, 2017**

**Meeting Minutes from February 2, 2017**

Attendees: Jim Lyon, Kent Carlson, Gretchen Roorbach and Judy Perrin  
In attendance: Marcia Rasmussen and Barbara Pike

Recorder: Jim Lyon

Call to order: 7:06PM at the Harvey Wheeler Clock Tower Room

1. Review Minutes from October 6, November 3, December 1, 2016 and January 5, 2017. October and November minutes approved as is. December 2106 and January 2017 minutes approved as amended.
2. Phase 2A, 2B, 2C Update

From Marcia Rasmussen:

1. **Phase 2A Update:** The Town of Acton has posted a blog about construction activity along Phase 2A at <http://www.acton-ma.gov/Blog.aspx?CID=10>. There has been no update posted since April 27, 2016, but construction activity can be viewed by driving on Route 27 and 119 in Acton. The MassDOT project information page indicates that construction of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (Phase IIA) including 6 bridge replacements and new bridge construction Br. No. A-02-014 (Steel) over Route 2A/119 (Great Road) is now 55% complete.
2. **Phase 2B Update:** The letter signed by Concord and Acton Select Board members and directed to MassDOT Highway Administrator Tom Tinlin was mailed, with copies sent to both Town's legislative delegation. Senator Jamie Eldridge prepared a letter of support for the additional design funds (dated December 21, 2016) which was co-signed by Senator Mike Barrett and Representatives Cory Atkins and Jennifer Benson. We are seeking an additional \$350,000 of design funds to complete the Phase 2B design.

Barbara Pike, with the Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail, informed me that the Friends will be kicking off a fund-raising effort to raise additional funds (up to \$50,000) toward the design funding.

I have begun work on the Request for Proposals for the Phase 2B 75% to 100% design/engineering work and expect to have the RFP completed by week of February 6<sup>th</sup>.

I talked with Jim Moran on January 18<sup>th</sup> regarding his interest in a plaque or other display noting the history of the families that lived on Commonwealth

Ave. near the railroad. He was going to continue searching for information to provide and I was to send the proposed displays for the Phase 2C section. I also talked with Nancy Crowley (Concord resident who grew up on Commonwealth Ave. and knew the Moran's) about stories from West Concord residents that could provide more info about growing up in the area in the 1900's.

### 3. **Phase 2C Updates:**

- a. The Construction bid package for the BFRT Phase 2C project was advertised; bids were opened on Tuesday, November 29<sup>th</sup>. The low bidder was D.W. White at \$6,709,393.74 which was about 5% below the office estimate. The MassDOT Highway Construction Division has determined to award the project to D.W. White and the contract has been awarded. District 4 Engineers will be responsible for project oversight – they are waiting for the ‘Notice to Proceed’ to be issued and hope to conduct a pre-construction conference sometime in February. More information on the project schedule will be provided at that time.
- b. **Right-of-way (ROW) Process** – Update on ROW-related items that required follow up from this past summer:
  - (1) The State Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance has solicited bids for conducting an appraisal of the 0.67 acres parcel to be transferred to the Town; said bids are expected to be submitted on February 9<sup>th</sup>. Comments on the draft ANR plan have been returned to me from Warren Madden at DCAMM and forwarded to Greenman-Pedersen, Inc.; additional information and research on the title for this land is being done by the surveyor. The Town is responsible for costs associated with both the plan and the appraisal
  - (2) The final easement agreement for the trail over MBTA land in West Concord resulted in the loss of six parking spaces adjacent to the West Concord Depot. The next step is preparation of a memorandum of agreement with the MBTA to confirm use of 6 parking spaces on town-owned land in the West Concord Commuter Parking Lot by the tenant of the West Concord Depot. There is an article on the 2017 Annual Town Meeting Warrant to authorize the lease/license of six parking spaces on Town land for exclusive use by the MBTA tenant in the West Concord Depot.

4. **Phase 2D Sudbury:** No additional or new information was available on the Town of Sudbury website. I spoke with the Sudbury staff person (Beth Sudameyer ) who will be working with the Sudbury

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Design Task Force (I understand that the first meeting was January 17<sup>th</sup>).

Marcia Rasmussen received much awaited letter from Thomas Tinlin from MassDot regarding additional funding from the state of \$350,000.00 for design of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Phase 2B. Unfortunately, there are significant legal fees (\$38,000 +/- ) from this past summer's effort to complete the title research work and prepare all of the private and public easements required of Phase 2C that will need funding. It would be great if the Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail could continue their efforts to fund up to \$50,000 toward the Phase 2B design; I will also plan to seek additional funds from Community Preservation Committee next fall.

3. Historic marker follow up. Marcia Rasmussen spoke with James Moran about historic marker he would like to sponsor. Marcia suggested some ideas for him to ponder as they proceed. Marcia was also in contact with Nancy Crowley from West Concord in regards to historical information and photos for this marker.

4. Bruce Freeman Rail Trail articles for the Concord Journal. The first article written by Mark Hansen was published in the January 19, 2017 edition of the Concord Journal. Gretchen Roorbach is meeting with Delia Kaye from the Natural Resources Commission for the next article regarding environmental resources. Other articles to follow.

5. Committee Reports and Correspondence:

West Concord Advisory Committee - Not much discussion of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail. More focus was put on Junction Village project. A grant was received in the amount of \$5000.00 for a wall mural to be painted on the side of the Twin Seafood building in West Concord. This was a matching fund grant, so \$5000.00 from Town and \$5000.00 from grant totaling \$10000.00 for this mural. It will illustrate the transportation movement and history of West Concord. Outreach is planned for different artists and public participation, including open studios in West Concord. Discussion of May 10 artists open house.

White Pond Advisory Committee - Jim attended and did a presentation for the White Pond Advisory Committee regarding the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail from the Powder Mill Road culvert to the Sudbury line. Since there has been turnover on their committee, they requested all information that could be supplied regarding how the trail will look by White Pond when it is built. I referred to the Phase 2C 100% Design for culvert and Phase 2C 75% Design from culvert to Sudbury line.

Trails Committee - Gretchen met with the Trails Committee and discussed the possible shifting of the trail by White Pond. Also talked about possible staking of trail in that area for upcoming site walk. Phase 2B bridge was also discussed including discussion about an exit ramp to connect to the School Street fields. Possible site walk scheduled for March 4, 2107.

Historical Committee - No report.

Housing Commission - No report

Correspondence - Alan Whitney invited Kent Carlson to First Parish forum in April or May to do a presentation on the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail.

Membership - Mark Hansen has resigned from the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee. There are currently 4 Green Cards on file. Kent Carlson or Jim Lyon will follow up.

7. Next Committee Meeting: Thursday, March 2, 2017 7:00PM
8. Public Comment - None

Meeting adjourned at 8:31pm