

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee  
Thursday January 3, 2019  
Harvey Wheeler Community Center

Meeting called to order 7:01pm

Committee members present: Jim Lyon, Kent Carlson, Carol Steele, and John Soden

Also in attendance: Barbara Pike, Marcia Rasmussen, Jim Terry, Sue Felshin, Jeff Collins, David Brooks

Recorder: John Soden

1. Minutes approved as is.
2. Phase 2A, 2B, 2C update.

1. Phase 2A Update: This phase of the trail construction has been completed and is open for all to enjoy!

2. CPA funding request: At its December 17th meeting, the Community Preservation Committee voted to not fund this year's request because there is \$40,000 available from the 2018 appropriation which should be expended before additional funds are granted, along with the multiple other requests considered to be of a higher priority.

3. Phase 2B Update: Design Consultant/GPI Project Manager Matt Kearney reports that they have been working with District 4 regarding some of the comments on the 75% plans, which are characterized as relatively minor and most, if not all, have been resolved. GPI is still on schedule to deliver the 100% submission by January 25th.

After MassDOT Project Manager Sreelatha Allam resigned to take a position with the MBTA, she informed GPI that her supervisor, David Shedd, would be the new MassDOT Project Manager for BFRT Phase 2B (Dave served as PM for Phases 2A and 2C).

There has been one minor item regarding the actual cost of the environmental permitting filing fees not being fully covered in the budget. Clarification is being sought from the sub-consultant, Nover-Armstrong, to be able to resolve this item.

4. Phase 2C Updates:

a) Keolis Commuter Services (under contract to the MBTA) are responsible for the installation of the crossing gates and paving the path over the rails. Some work has been done (work is being done on weekends), but the crossing has not yet been completed.

b) Reconstruction of the intersection at Main Street and Commonwealth Ave. has been completed.

c) After a site walk on Thursday, January 3rd, the Town has determined that the contractor has completed paving, fence installation, road crossings, and pedestrian signal installations.

MassDOT considers this a final inspection and a punch list (items remaining to be completed) will be discussed at the next Construction Update meeting scheduled for January 17th. The Town will likely be responsible for maintenance of the trail after this winter's season.

We observed that some additional crossing work is needed in the parking lot at the commuter rail station (a light pole was relocated to make it easier to cross the driveway), and the Nashoba Brook bridge was the site of major activity (installing pavers and making the forms for concrete pads to support benches). This is going to be a beautiful place to stop and appreciate the brook!

d) The Green Thumbs and the Garden Club accepted the revised planting plan and plant list that was submitted to MassDOT and D.W. White on November 29th. This landscaping will be installed in the spring 2019.

e) There have been several calls from residents concerned about the quality of signs installed along the trail (they are typical MassDOT road signs). These signs will be evaluated when conducting a site walk later this year to determine whether alternative signs (smaller, wood, routed) might be used instead (which the Town would be responsible to replace) or whether certain signs could be relocated.

f) Following up on fencing installed near the Sanborn School and my meeting with School Dept. representatives on Monday, December 10th – the chain link fence will be removed by the Town after the project is complete (or a change order will need to be submitted) and the two proposed benches will be relocated to an area near West Concord center.

Delia Kaye and I also reviewed the traffic signs and vehicular traffic concerns near 38, 40 and 42 Williams Road and have suggested replacing the stock MassDOT traffic signs with smaller, more rustic appearing stop signs and adding signage indicating “private property” closer to Williams Road. These proposed solutions still need to be reviewed with the owner.

5. Phase 2D Sudbury: I did not reach out for follow up this month since its winter.

### 3. Operations & Maintenance

There will be a meeting January 9 at 4:00pm with the police and other interested parties on the section of the trail designated for walking bikes near Junction Park. Jim will attend on behalf of BFRTAC.

### 4. Phase 2B Feedback

The 25% design comments and responses from GPI were reviewed. Two items require further action. #6 - Marcia will look further into whether the centerline can be shifted in light of the Town's recent acquisition of the Gerow property and its development for recreational use.

#8 - Jim will research the trail width at the the route 2 bridge of 12' since Town Meeting agreed to a 10' trail width in Concord.

### 5. Brochures and Map

A brochure that Acton police developed about the trail was discussed. It was agreed that his is a good template to use for a Concord brochure. Members took copies and we will further discuss and develop at future meeting.

Also discussed was putting out a comprehensive trail map. Barbara shared a recent Friends map. this will be further discussed at next meeting.

6. Member Comments/Committee Liaisons/Correspondence - A letter was received from Sue Felshin regarding access for deliveries to the train depot. see below

7. Next committee meeting: February 6.

8. Public comment:

Jeff Collins asked about future access from the trail to the soccer fields. Jim explained this was outside of the BFRTAC purview but that the design has an opening and a slope that can lead to making the connection.

Sue Felshin stated the concerns raised in her letter mentioned above. Members had been provided with copies of both her letter and Marcia Rasmussen's reply.

David Bridges suggested that visuals be included in the brochure as they are very effective,

The meeting adjourned at 8:21pm.