

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee Meeting

February 7, 2019

Harvey Wheeler Community Center, Clock Tower Room, 7pm

Attendees: Jim Lyon, John Soden, Suzanne Knight

Also in attendance: Dean Sullender, Judy Perrin, Barbara Pike, Ken Miller, Ken Perrin, Dorcas Miller, Stephen Irza

Recorder: Suzanne

Call to order: 7:01pm

1. Review Minutes from January 3, 2019 Meeting, approved.

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. Phase 2B Update:

- Design Consultant/GPI Project Manager Matt Kearney reports that the 100% design plans were submitted to Mass DOT on Wednesday, February 6 th. I received access to the plans as well; these should be posted to the BFRT Advisory Committee's web page early next week (February 11-13).
- The Towns of Acton and Concord have been asked by MassDOT landscape sections to provide a letter to MassDOT affirming trail maintenance responsibilities once it is turned over to each community. I am working with the Town Manager and Concord Public Works Director to prepare that letter of affirmation

3. Phase 2C Updates:

- a) Keolis Commuter Services (under contract to the MBTA) are responsible for the installation of 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) The Construction Update meeting scheduled for January 17 th was not held; the Town will not be responsible for maintenance of the trail after this winter's season.
- c) The Green Thumbs and the Garden Club have had preliminary discussions about the landscaping to be installed at Junction Park and the south side of Main Street; they are following up with Concord Public Works to be sure water service is installed to easily water the plantings. The Green Thumbs are also interested in planting the strip of land between the Commuter Rail platform and the trail behind Woods Hill Table; I'll be discussing this with MassDOT later this month.
- d) Eagle Scout candidate Nolan Roberts sent a message expressing concern about his proposed location for the Fix-it station; two benches are being relocated to the area south of Main Street near the proposed wood sign/ kiosk and bicycle racks. I have offered to meet with Nolan on site with the plans either after the construction work has been completed (anticipated to be April or May 2019) or sooner if he wants.

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

3. Operations and Maintenance

Jim will check with Delia about the new, non-BFRT trail created on town land near Powder Mill Road.

4. Phase 2B/ 2C/Route 2/Commonwealth Ave

The discussion dealing with the issue of the width of the trail – 2B (10' wide versus 12' wide) was tabled until the next meeting.

5. Junction Park Meeting

Jim attended January 7 meeting in regards to Junction Park. Chief of Police, public safety officer, Select Board member Jane Hotchkiss, Barbara Pike, Dorrie Kehoe and others discussed walking of bikes through Junction Park and ideas to facilitate this.

Suggestions were as follows:

Concord News and Notices

Google groups and West Concord Google group

Concord Journal

Schools (all levels)

Private Schools

Warning sign at Trail entrance at Commonwealth Ave (near prison) giving notice that a dismount area is x distance ahead

MMN TV –Video of trail and instructions

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Newsletter

Sandwich Boards in Park

BFRTAC discussion from Junction Park meeting included:

- Dismount signs – where should they be placed. One suggestion was on Main coming from Sudbury.
- Additional bike rack could be considered near where the dismount in West Concord is located.
- Bollard or barrier to prevent cars from driving onto the Trail, particularly coming from Commonwealth Ave and turning left onto Main Street

6. Brochures and Map

Ones similar to Acton's will be printed.

- Barbara Pike indicated that there used to be a Uniformity Committee that met to discuss uniform rules between the towns.
- An updated map will be discussed at the next meeting.

7. Member Comments/Committee Liaisons/Correspondence

- Snow clearing at Junction Park was criticized in an email to Marcia. The town is responsible for Trail maintenance, once it is opened.

8. Next Committee Meeting: Thursday, March 7, 2019

9. Public Comment

- Signage (Barbara Pike had example) that show images of the trail rules instead of just text.
- Barbara Pike indicated that the Friends will buy signage for Acton, which may also be appropriate for Concord. She will go before the Friends Board to verify this.
- BFRTAC will determine locations for these 18x24" signs and suggested they may replace the text-heavy ones.
- Regarding unaccredited trail – Dean suggested that the BFRT should not be responsible for these private paths.

- Stephen wanted to know when signs could be changed in West Concord Village. Jim clarified that changes cannot be made until Mass DOT turns over the Trail to the town.
- Date for the ribbon cutting ceremony for the opening has not yet been set.
- The 2B (bridge) will have access of some sort to allow access to the soccer fields.
- Judy mentioned that the area of the Trail by the prison next to Commonwealth Ave. looks like a road and suggested a bollard could be places at this junction. Jim will check the plans.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:01