

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Sub Committee

Meeting Minutes

March 16, 2022

Meeting Held via Zoom

Call to Order

- The March 16, 2022 meeting of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Sub Committee was called to order at 7:00 PM

Attendees

- Sub Committee Members: Nat Welch, Tracy Hansen, Adrienne Boardman
- Town Representatives: Marcia Rasmussen, Director of Planning and Land Management
- Two members of the public were in attendance
- Recorder: Adrienne Boardman

Approval of Meeting Minutes

- A motion was made to approve the March 1, 2022 meeting minutes and seconded
 - The March 1, 2022 minutes were approved unanimously by roll call vote

Overview of Conversation with Peter Sutton; MassDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator

- Nat Welch had a phone conversation with Peter Sutton and also met for a site walk of Junction Park. The primary takeaways from those interactions include:
 - Mr. Sutton reported that he hasn't seen as many signs in such a small space in his career as were present in Junction Park
 - Mr. Sutton expressed surprise how few streets in Concord were oriented towards biking
 - Discussed the possible approach of putting a barricade to separate bikers from Junction Park users; he felt it was doable given the space

Overview of Conversation with Eric Stoothoff; Chief Engineer of MBTA

- Nat Welch shared some of the concepts being explored with Mr. Stoothoff – one of which was the possibility of using a slice of MBTA owned land to the west of the Park to create a BFRT path; Mr. Stoothoff indicated that the MBTA is willing to have conversations about the idea, however there are no guarantees that this would be doable
- Planning for a further conversation in April which would include MBTA real estate group to discuss the concept; Marcia Rasmussen to be included
- No known plans to change the MBTA crossing in West Concord to include fully raised platforms (for accessibility and other reasons)

Reviewed Renderings of Conceptual Designs Created by Marcia Rasmussen and Town Staff

- Reviewed artifacts and labels on the drawings and discussed suggestions of what to add for clarity; provided feedback to Marcia and agreed that these should be shared with the broader BFRTAC and potentially used at a future Public Forum

Planning for BFRTAC Meeting on March 16

- March meeting to focus on narrowing down the conceptual plans
- April meeting can include Town Staff
- A site walk for the next Public Forum could be planned for late April or early May (potentially week of April 25)
- Discussed advantages of sharing the short-term conceptual plan first, while the long-term plan is still being finalized (to be continued)

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04PM