

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee
March 17, 2022

Meeting Called to Order at 7:08 pm

Committee Members Present: In Person - Nat Welch, Richard Fahlander, Dorcas Miller, Tracy Hansen. Via Zoom - John Soden, Deborah Adelman, Sam Stearns

Approximately 21 attendees from the public in person and on line.

February 10, 2022 minutes approved unanimously.

Monthly Update Report

Planning and Land Management Director Marcia Rasmussen provided the monthly update. See attached report.

Discussion of interpretive panels near White Pond – Would they encourage or discourage visitors to improperly access pond? Marcia will develop panels with Natural Resources staff and consult with the White Pond Advisory Committee.

No definitive answer yet from Mass DOT regarding extension of 200 feet of three-rail fencing along White Pond side trail.

Ramp to Acton Playing Fields

Nat reported on meeting in Acton regarding building a ramp from the Route 2 bridge to playing fields. Action officials and advocates will take the lead on this project.

Junction Park Sub-Committee Presentation

Sub-committee chair Tracy presented possible options for mitigating conflicts among users of Junction Park.

Short-Term Option #1

The short-term temporary plan keeps existing trail and park footprints and separate trail and park users. Specific hardware, signage, or barriers were not specified.

Concerns were raised that temporary measures could become permanent, that cyclists should be forced to dismount and that any bike lane will undermine the park as a place to linger.

Long Term Options #2-#7

Tracy presented six possible options to re-locate the trail in Junction Park.

Three options would re-align trail along the west side. Options #2 and #3 would require use of MBTA parking and Option #4 would require relocation of retention basins.

Option #5 would create a new walking path on the east side. Option #6 would create a new rail trail on east side.

Option #7 would create separate paths for rail trail and park pedestrians.

There was general agreement among committee members that Options #2, #3, and #4 are the most feasible long-term options based on the committee's design principles.

Members of the public were requested to submit written responses to the various options prior to the next committee meeting on April 7th.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:58 pm.

Submitted by Richard Fahlander