

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee

May 3, 2018

Harvey Wheeler Community Center, Clock Tower Room, 7pm

Attendees: Kent Carlson, Gretchen Roorbach, Suzanne Knight and John Soden

In attendance: Members from the public: Marcia Rasmussen, Dean Sullender, Richard Fortier, Carol Steele, Steven Goodman, John Hickling.

Recorder: Suzanne Knight

Call to order: 7:00pm

1. **Review Minutes from April 5, Meeting**, approved as amended.
2. **Phase 2A, 2B, 2C, 2D Update**

Phase 2A Update: The ribbon-cutting event is planned for Friday, May 11 at 3:30 p.m. in NARA Park, Acton (Ledge Rock Way off Route 27 – about a mile north of Route 2A/119).

Phase 2B Update: GPI received approved and signed sketch plans for the bridges on March 26th and revised the design/work schedule. That schedule has been revised to indicate that the next submission will be on or about June 22nd because the design work on the bridges took longer than initially anticipated.

Phase 2C Updates: D.W. White, the principal contractor of BFRT Phase 2C, has not yet provided a start date of when their construction crews will be working in Concord. However, subcontractors have been working on the Nashoba Brook Bridge. MassDOT and Town of Concord staff continues to remind residents and visitors that the trail will continue to be a construction zone for all of 2018; neither residents nor visitors should be walking on or using the trail, especially during the week when construction activity is underway.

Town staff from Public Works and Planning met in the field with members of the Concord Garden Club on May 2nd to discuss extension of water to the south side of the revised Commonwealth Ave./Main St. intersection and planning for a new landscape area.

Phase 2D Sudbury: Sudbury resident/Selectman Len Simon provided the following update: The Town of Sudbury has been working to hire an engineering firm to complete the bridge and boardwalk sketches to complete the 25% design. The Town Manager and Environmental Planner were hoping to contract with a selected engineering firm, but were asked to seek additional bids by the We bring a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen for final approval.

On a positive note, in February 2018 Sudbury applied for a \$100,000 DCR grant to buy the northernmost 1/4 mile of the CSX right of way in Sudbury (phase 4). CSX is now interested in selling the land and provided a letter of support to use the corridor to build a recreational trail.

Framingham: Received a call this week from a Framingham public works employee who indicated that Framingham was pursuing acquisition of the CSX property for a rail trail and he was tasked with developing estimates for design and construction. He was seeking information about Phase 2C.

3. Town Meeting Update

- Kent reported that what we voted on as a committee and what was voted on at town meeting were slightly different.
- There was a discussion about the need for a special town meeting in the fall at which time an article needs to be included on the warrant for the Town to obtain easements for the BFRT Phase 2B.

4. Operations and Maintenance

Trees still remain across the trail with some removed. There appears to be less use of the trail in Concord while the trail in Acton and north is being heavily used.

5. Membership and Committee Election

Tabled until next month.

6. Member comments/Committee liaisons/Correspondence

- Kent is waiting for a decision from the Selectman to see if he can serve another term, as he is the member with the most long-term experience on the Committee.
- Carol should expect notification from the town that she can serve on the BFRTAC.
- A huge thank you was given to Gretchen for all the years she served on the committee.
- Upcoming meeting agenda will include discussion about the Committee creating a final report summarizing over a decade of work. This report will be created at the dissolution of the Committee.
- Jim suggested scheduling for meetings next year will remain on the first Thursday of every month at Harvey Wheeler at 7 PM.

- Suzanne mentioned affordable options for a granite bench from Concord Runners in memory of Robert Hall. Marcia will discuss with Matt Kearney at the Phase 2B 75% design stage.

- Kent created a new flyer for West Concord Day (May 5, 2018) and will call Barbara Pike to see if the Friends wish to volunteer. Gretchen will volunteer for a few hours.

- No committee reports

- No correspondence

7. Correspondence, Public Comment

- John Hickling asked if Phase 2C would open before 2B. 2C will open in the spring, 2019. The Concord portion will be 3 miles long.

- The land on Warner's Pond, abutting the BFRT was approved for purchase and final negotiations are taking place this month between the Town and owners of the property.

- Carol Steele questioned the history of affordable housing in Concord.

Next Committee Meeting: Thursday, June 7, 2018
at Harvey Wheeler Community Center

Meeting Adjourned: 8 PM