

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

May 5, 2022

Meeting Held via Zoom

Call to Order

- The May 5, 2022 meeting of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee (“BFRTAC”) was called to order at 7:01PM by co-chair Nat Welch

Attendees

- BFRTAC Members: Nat Welch, Richard Fahlander, Adrienne Boardman, Dorcas Miller, John Soden, Tracy Hansen, Marybeth Barker
- Town Representatives: Marcia Rasmussen, Director of Planning and Land Management and Terri Ackerman, Select Board
- Approximately 10 members of the community
- Recorder: Adrienne Boardman

Approval of Meeting Minutes

- A motion was made to approve the April 7, 2022 meeting minutes and seconded
 - The April 7, 2022 minutes were approved unanimously by roll call vote

Town Update Memo: Marcia Rasmussen presented the monthly update, which is incorporated as an addendum to the meeting minutes.

- Phase 2B
 - During a progress meeting on May 5, 2022 Town staff learned that the contractor has submitted a request to extend the completion date to November 30, 2022 due to the scheduling of weather-dependent activities
 - The application of anti-graffiti material will take place through May and June; the top course of paving is expected to be done in July; the planting schedule has been extended to the Fall
- Phase 2C Updates:
 - Update from the BFRT Sub Committee to be provided later in the meeting
- Last ½ Mile
 - The Town has not yet had a definitive response from MassDOT regarding the granite mile markers and the interpretive signs or the funding/financial assistance identified in last month’s update
 - Members of the Trails Committee and White Pond Committee had a site walk with Delia Kaye (Natural Resource Director) on May 5, 2022
- Phase 2D Sudbury

- Sudbury Town Meeting on May 2, 2022 and May 3, 2022 approved all four articles related to the BFRT
- Community Connections Grant
 - The work to install the bike shelters and racks has begun as of May 2, 2022
- Concord Prison Cemetery
 - An initial estimate for producing the informational panel was provided by the same company that prepared the other panels found along BFRT 2C and 2B and was forwarded to Concord Prison Outreach and others promoting this addition.
- Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism (MOTT) Wayfinding Grant
 - The Town of Acton submitted a grant application earlier this Spring in partnership with Concord to the Massachusetts Office of Travel & Tourism to provide wayfinding signage along the BFRT in Acton and extending to West Concord Village.
 - Acton has contracted with design consultant Mark Favermann of Favermann Design to design the system and get contracts for fabrication in place by the end of June 2022.
 - Mark will give a presentation later in the meeting tonight.
- Dorcas Miller asked if we need to worry about handicap access where the trails end; Ms. Rassmussen indicated it should be accessible
- Richard Fahlander asked for clarification on the official bridge opening date given the construction extension to November; Ms. Rassmussen mentioned that any use of the bridge prior is a liability and runs risk of ruining work underway and is trying to determine when an opening ceremony could be held
- Nat Welch asked if an update can be provided in a month to determine if bridge can be used safely while finish work is underway; Ms. Rassmussen reiterated that any use prior to completion would be trespassing
- Deborah Adleman stated that she thought that an aspect of the BFRT had been voted down recently that had raised concern; other BFRTAC members indicated she was likely referring to discussions around the Reformatory in Bedford
- Adrienne Boardman asked Ms. Rassmussen to provide an update on the CPC request reviewed as part of Concord's Town Meeting; Ms. Rassmussen indicated \$30,000 in funding was approved (there might be \$5-6,000 available from prior year funding)
- Deborah Adleman asked for clarification around any funding that the Town of Concord has for maintaining the BFRT; Ms. Rassmussen stated that the lease agreement that Concord has with the state stipulates that Concord is responsible for maintaining and that CPC funds are used for any incremental items such as upgrades, plantings, signage, etc.
- Nat Welch asked if all applicable stakeholders are aligned on the status of what needs

to be done regarding the last half mile; Ms. Rassmussen stated that one open item is around labeling private property areas and indicated that the request is underway

- Ellen Glendon (64 Stone Root Lane) stated that she attended the site walk on May 5, 2022 and indicated that there are some open questions, one around where exactly the fence will end; Ms. Rassmussen stated that she would need to review the plans and that 200 feet of additional fencing were requested but said she would need to follow up with Ms. Glendon at another time
- Nat Welch acknowledged the work underway by the BFRT Sub Committee pertaining to the Junction Park conceptual redesign and referenced some comments suggesting that Committee members are focused on cyclists; Mr. Welch emphasized that the Committee members are comprised of, and represent, all BFRT users

Committee Business

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Willard School Service Day

- Ms. Kelly Crowley explained that Service Day has been taking place for many years and is designed for 5th Grade students before they move on to Middle School; one proposed service project is associated with the BFRT which would take place the morning of June 2, 2022
- Ms. Crowley asked if any trail maintenance is required or what support could be given; Ms. Rassmussen indicated that she spoke with Delia Kaye (Natural Resource Director) and that they would like to meet with the 5th Graders in the Powder Mill tunnel and review invasive species that need to be removed, some unofficial trails that need to be covered, and perhaps some plantings
- Ms. Crowley expressed enthusiasm in the proposed plan and will connect with Ms. Rassmussen via email to finalize plans

Trail Count Program

- Nat Welch indicated the Trail Count will now take place at a later date this Spring

Junction Park Conceptual Redesign

- Nat Welch reviewed the charge from the Select Board - to ensure safety and separation of users in Junction Park spanning both the short term and long term; Mr. Welch continued to provide an update of the work done since April including the review of the conceptual concepts, visits to Junction Park, and conversations with the MBTA
- At the April 26, 2022 sub committee meeting it was unanimously voted to proceed with Junction Park redesign #4; Short term conceptual plan has already been agreed upon
- Nat Welch reviewed the Long Term Plan (JP4) outlining where BFRT users would be directed and the conceptual layout of the Junction Park area
- Nat Welch expressed thanks and appreciation for all input and contributions from the Committee and the public

- Adrienne Boardman stated that she felt it was important to call out that the fundamentals of the proposed Short Term conceptual design would remain in the proposed Long Term
- Tracy Hansen suggested that JP#4 appeared to require the least amount of changes than the others previously reviewed
- Richard Fahlander referenced to the idea of the boardwalk over the bioretention area; Tracy Hansen recalled that there was some concern that if the area was covered it might not serve the full intended purpose
- Tracy Hansen stated that there is also an opportunity to review the experience for BFRT users approaching from the other direction such as better trail indicators of where to go
- Deborah Adleman expressed support for addressing safety concerns by the railroad crossing and asked if there is anything else that can be done to incorporate traditional railroad gates to signal when pedestrians should not cross the tracks; Ms. Rassmussen and Nat Welch agreed that the report to the Select Board can indicate that there is an opportunity got more to be done to improve safety by the railroad tracks, however that it is not part of the current remit
- Richard Fahlander, co-chair, asked if there is a need for an additional committee site walk; Adrienne Boardman suggested that it might be appropriate to offer the opportunity to the Select Boardman just prior to, or after, the report is submitted; Terri Ackerman agreed
- Bill Satterthwaite (297 Laws Brook Road) stated that the path width for Park users should be at least what exists today in the current state; Nat Welch confirmed that the current drawings are conceptual only and that it will be noted
- Sallie Satterthwaite (297 Laws Brook Road) indicated that she has been thinking about how the path crosses the sidewalk and the concept of circulation plans; Nat Welch indicated that the conceptual plans will be used to inform the details at which time that would be reviewed; Ms. Satterthwait stated that she hopes the Short Term plan is sufficient and that perhaps the Long Term is not needed
- Cynthia Katz (20 Conant Street) stated that one of that it is important to remember that Junction Park is not a thorough-fair and that it is a gathering area for many age groups; Ms. Katz commented that the proposed plan is limiting this gathering area; Ms. Katz referenced time spent time in the Cambridge Common and suggested elements that can be leveraged in Concord's design
- Judy Perrin (16 Concord Green) asked what the area in between the BFRT and the Junction Park path would consist of; Nat Welch indicated that the details are to be confirmed but that the intent was landscape and plantings; Ms. Perrin indicated that it is useful to be able to cross the Park from 7-11 to the Woods Hill area; Mr. Welch acknowledged that is one of the tradeoffs
- A motion was made to move forward with Junction Park Plan #4 as the long term conceptual redesign to include in the report to the Select Board
 - The motion was passed unanimously by roll call vote
- Nat Welch discussed the approach to draft the recommendations to the Select Board and indicated that the Co-Chairs would take the lead and ask Committee Members for

contributions on certain sections; Report would be reviewed during the June meeting or perhaps a separate meeting

Wayfinding Sign Grant

- Mark Favermann (Favermann Design) was commissioned by the Town of Acton; Mr. Favermann reviewed the work underway including the BFRT logo, opportunities to show mileage, QR Codes, etc.
- Mr. Favermann reviewed examples of the various types of signs: identification, directional, regulatory, and informational across local communities and provided examples that could be incorporated along the BFRT
- Nat Welch asked for clarification what the ask of the Committee was around this content; Ms. Rasmussen indicated that they were looking for thoughts and feedback as these elements would be incorporated in three locations in Concord: near Jerrod Park and the North and South side of West Concord Village; Nat Welch stated that he felt this would be useful for people coming into town
- Richard Fahlander asked as a practical matter how maps and store locations are updated as businesses change; Ms. Rasmussen indicated that Concord already has a tool for doing this ourselves within Town
- Tracy Hansen asked for confirmation on locations; Ms. Rasmussen indicated near the Nashoba Brook Bridge, near where the bike racks are being installed, and near the wooden kiosk on the South side of Main Street
- Philip Posner (223 Lawsbrook Road) stated he is a former resident of Wakefield and complimented the signage there and continued to ask if Ms. Favermann is involved in the work being done by MassDOT for wayfinding for cyclists; Mr. Favermann indicated he is not involved but will inquire
- Adrienne Boardman stated that we should consider consistency across Towns in terms of color and symbols vs words and asked of the BFRTAC will have the opportunity to review signs; Ms. Rasmussen indicated that this project is being fast tracked and will likely be finalized quickly
- Ms. Rasmussen also suggested that any “Welcome to Junction Park” signage could follow the same design and approach for consistency; Committee members voiced support

Member Questions & Comments

- Nat Welch asked Committee Members to review the e-bike report and send comments to Deborah Adleman
- Discussion of next meeting date to ensure a Committee quorum; agreement to reschedule from June 2 to June 14 at 7:00PM

Correspondence and Public Comments

- Richard Fahlander shared that preliminary engineering work has been done to improve sidewalk access and crossing for the neighborhoods beyond the rotary
- Richard Fahlander shared that students from Mass College of Art will be presenting on the Prison Cemetery on June 15 at Fowler Library and indicated he would share event details with the Committee
- Sallie Satterthwaite commented that the dragonfly benches previously shared by Mr. Favermann did not look comfortable
- Barbara Pike (118 Border Road) asked Marcia Rasmussen about the flags that are to be placed in the islands to help call attention; Ms. Rasmussen indicated she would inquire

The meeting was adjourned at 8:43PM.

Next meeting on Thursday, June 14 @ 7:00PM



TOWN OF CONCORD

Department of Planning and Land Management

141 Keyes Road - Concord, MA - 01742

Phone: 978-318-3290

MEMORANDUM

To: Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee
From: Marcia Rasmussen, Director DPLM
Re: **Update of Phases 2A, 2B, 2C, the last ½ mile of 2C, and 2D, plus**
Date: May 5, 2022

- 1. Phase 2A Update:** This phase of the trail has been completed and is open for all to enjoy!
- 2. Phase 2B Update:** At this morning's project update meeting on Thursday, May 5th, Town staff learned that the contractor has submitted a request to extend the completion date to November 30, 2022 due to the scheduling of weather-dependent activities. The staining and application of anti-graffiti material will take place later in May; the staining will take 3-4 weeks, will cure for 8 days and then the anti-graffiti material will be applied, which will be at the end of June. The planting season ends in June, so the planting schedule has been extended to the fall (late September/October/early November). Additionally, the top course of paving is expected to be done in July.
- 3. Phase 2C Updates:** The BFRTAC Subcommittee met on April 26th and should have an update for the full committee on May 5th. Attached is another memo regarding questions raised by residents during Junction Park discussions and answers found from a review of written records (lease agreements, easement language, town meeting votes, Public Works Commission meeting minutes, etc.).



- 4. The last ½ mile of Phase 2C:** The Town has not yet had a definitive response from MDOT regarding the granite mile markers and the interpretive signs; nor the additional funding/financial assistance identified in last month's update.

I sent an email to the MDOT Rail Division identifying the encroachment of the State's right of way as suggested by the representative from MDOT Right-of-Way division but have not heard back.

In response to the WPAC email regarding the 5-foot opening in the wood fence near White Pond noted in last month's update, I walked this portion of the trail with Natural Resources Director Delia Kaye and Land Manager Will Holden beginning at the tunnel and heading southerly toward the Sudbury town line. The three of us agreed that the 5-foot gap in the fence to connect to the first path could be closed as requested by the WPAC if the fence were not extended to that point where the embankment begins to rise where there is a second path. This second path would allow access to other trails as well as a trail for the Old Pickard Trust 2 members to access their land (we did not want to preclude access by OPFT2 since we had had no indication from the Trustees that they would be willing to give up their access easement). I have since been contacted by a member of the OPFT2 that they are unlikely to give up access to their land via the existing path and hope to meet with them the week of May 16th. The revised plans for the 100% design dated April 2022 have been posted on the BFRTAC web page here <https://concordma.gov/2844/Phase-2CD-Plans-and-Information>.

Additionally, this morning the Trails Committee conducted a site walk with Natural Resources Director Delia Kaye (attended by WPAC Chair Josh Galpar). Delia reported that the Trails Committee agreed with the proposal to end the fence short of the existing embankment to allow access to an existing trail that connects to Old Pickard Farm Trust 2 land and will connect to the Town of Concord land to the south.

- 5. Phase 2D Sudbury –** On Monday, May 2nd Sudbury Town Meeting approved two articles related to private easements and approval of the lease with MassDOT which will allow advertising, and then construction, of the BFRT in Sudbury to move forward. Advertising should take place this summer and construction should commence in the fall 2022 or spring 2023. On Tuesday, May 4th Sudbury Town Meeting approved Articles 47 and 48 to provide design funding for the ¼ mile of former CSX Right-of-way from the Mass Central Rail Trail to Route 20 and a feasibility study for Phase 3 to the Framingham town line.

6. **Community Connections Grant follow up:** The work to install the bike shelters and racks has begun as of May 2nd. Photo of the construction site at the right was taken Thursday, May 5th.



7. **Concord Prison Cemetery:** An initial estimate for producing the interpretive panel was provided by the same company that prepared the other panels found along BFRT 2C and 2B and was forwarded to Concord Prison Outreach and others promoting this addition.

8. **MOTT wayfinding grant awarded to the Town of Acton:** Earlier this spring, the Town of Acton submitted a grant application in partnership with Concord to the Massachusetts Office of Travel & Tourism to provide wayfinding signage along the BFRT in Acton and extending to West Concord Village. Acton has contracted with design consultant Mark Favermann of Favermann Design to design the system and get contracts for fabrication in place by the end of June 2022. Mark will be attending tonight's meeting to give his presentation and hear your feedback.