

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee Meeting

June 4, 2020

Meeting held online via Zoom

Committee Members in attendance: Jim Lyon, Suzanne Knight, John Soden, Carol Steele

Others in attendance: Barbara Pike, Marcia Rasmussen, Nancy Lippe, Terri Ackerman, Judy Perrin, Delia Kaye, Jim Coutre, Stewart Ikeda, Richard Fahlander

Recorder: Suzanne Knight

Call to order: 7:08pm

1. Report from: Marcia Rasmussen, Director DPLM
Update of Phases 2A, 2B, 2C and 2D

- **Phase 2A Update:** This phase of the trail has been completed and is open for all to enjoy!
- **Phase 2B Update:** On Tuesday, May 26th, MassDOT and the Contractor, MIG Corporation of Acton MA, conducted a site walk of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Phase 2B with representatives from Concord (Natural Resources Director Delia Kaye, Public Works Engineer Stephane Cherduville and myself) and Acton Natural Resources Director Tom Tidman. The purpose of the site walk was to view the existing conditions, discuss areas for treatment and removal of invasive plant species and the extent of clearing operations (shrubs and tree removal). The contractor anticipates starting construction next week by delineating the area to be cleared for the path (approximately 30-foot wide), and establishing erosion controls. On Friday, June 5th, Natural Resources Director Delia Kaye and I will be reviewing the defined tree removal areas. Tree removal and clearing is expected to begin the week of June 8th.
- **Phase 2C Updates** – Eagle Scout Nolan Roberts completed his Eagle Scout project in May with a contribution to the Town of Concord of \$450 toward future maintenance of the Bicycle Fix-it Station and additional tools/components. Well done and CONGRATULATIONS to Nolan!
- Nancy Lippe, the artist who requested support from the BFRT Advisory Committee last November, is hoping to move forward with her project, 'Go Out Doors', with an installation of doors along the trail. While she has proposed 13 different locations (see three maps with proposed locations), I feel that only four and possibly 6 are viable at this time (I feel that Junction Park is already too congested, that one of the sites is within the Zone 1 of the Town's well site, and others are too close to residences (outreach to these residents would be important before any installation). Four of the sites are in the West Concord area and the last two are at the end of the trail near Powder Mill Road. The Town Manager has asked the BFRT Advisory Committee for your recommendation about moving forward with the art installation this month with an opening on or around the beginning of July or waiting for installation and opening in August/September. Nancy Lippe will be available to join us tonight.
- Additionally, I have received reports about several informal paths being created in the Powder Mill Road area, one over private property. Natural Resources Director Delia Kaye, Highway and Grounds Superintendent Aaron Miklosko and I walked the area on June 1st. Aaron will be adding wood posts and fence to the serpentine entrance path to prevent bicyclists from 'cutting through' the landscaped areas and Delia will be putting together signage to ask people to remain on the paved path. Additional signage will be added on the trail and at the street to indicate that the other informal path is private property and to use the official access point. (see photos left and right).
- **Phase 2D Sudbury:** I spoke with MassDOT project manager for BFRT 2D Eamon Kernan and MassDOT project manager for BFRT 2C David Shedd on May 20th regarding the additional work and information needed for Sudbury's design/engineering consultant to include the 0.53-mile section of rail trail in Concord with the 2D portion. I was advised of the need to renew the Notice of Intent and provide funds to allow the Sudbury design consultant to complete the plans from 100%

design to PS&E level of design. I am coordinating with Concord Natural Resources Director Delia Kaye and have contacted Marti Nover (formerly of Nover-Armstrong, now with the BETA Group) who prepared the initial Notice of Intent to get that application process underway, so Sudbury will have the necessary Order of Conditions from the Natural Resources Commission to construct the trail in Concord. Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. is in the process of compiling the 100% information and specifications, which will be sent to Eamon Kernan and to the Town of Sudbury Environmental Planner Beth Suedmeyer to share with the consultant so they can coordinate this information in the final construction documents.

I also asked Dave Shedd and Eamon Kernan how best to calculate the cost (coordinating the plans and bringing the 100% design up to final contract documents) and they told me to review the initial contract with GPI for Phase 2C and add 15%. The approximate cost to prepare final PS&E plans from 100% design plans for both Phase 2A and 2C was less than \$10,000 per mile (\$75,000 total), which would be approximately \$5300 plus 15% would be \$6,095. I suggested an inter-municipal agreement be prepared with Sudbury as the lead community for this project providing an amount (say up to \$10,000) to cover the costs for inclusion of the PS&E plans for the 0.53 miles in Concord into BFRT 2D. These funds should be available from the remaining Community Preservation fund grant approved in 2018. I am waiting to hear back from Sudbury on this proposal.

2. Operations and Maintenance

- Grady Snarr is investigating the next Eagle Scout project and has been put in touch with Marcia and Kent
- Marcia mentioned that signs will be put into the Depot area and on Main street and will be semi-permanent in function.
- “Go Out Doors” art installation:
 - Nancy Lippe (Emerson Umbrella) spoke about the door art installation, “Go Out Doors”. Committee comments below.
 - Terri Ackerman (Emerson Umbrella) spoke about art installations on the Minuteman Bike path and that they have 4-5 installations/year as well as live performances.
 - The Committee suggested that the installation of the doors begin in July, not June as originally planned due to concerns about gatherings during the Covid-19 isolation phase. In July, doors could be installed every week as a phased-in process with two doors being erected at a time. This installation will be taken down after Thanksgiving.
 - The Committee further discussed possible alternative locations of the doors and the need to obtain homeowner approval for some sites. Marcia R will look at some alternative sites and obtain homeowner approval, if needed.

3. Member Comments/Committee Liaisons/Correspondence

- Julie Hirschler contacted Jim and the town by email informing that she was nearly hit by a car at the intersection of Williams and Old Marlboro Roads. She felt this was a dangerous intersection and something should be done about it. It will remain an item that is under consideration.
- David Covucci emailed Jim with the issue of bicyclists not announcing themselves when coming up behind walkers. He fears an accident from the walkers. The Committee discussed and felt that rather than a sign, education of individuals and eventually once the opening of 2B occurs, road courtesy will be obvious.
- Jim Francis reported to Jim that there was someone riding a motorized scooter. It was discussed that no motorized vehicles are allowed. Marcia R will pose this issue to the police.
- Marcia R reported that Nancy Crowley, is interested in collecting research on the White House, early 1900's living on Commonwealth Ave. Marcia will let the Committee know if extra help is needed.

- Barbara Pike would love to have a sign created of the national award given to the Concord portion of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail, indicating that it received the prestigious Public Works Project of the Year award for 2019 for Small Cities/Rural Communities in the category of Transportation. Marcia indicated that although it is a good idea, for now, she has continuing work with 2B and needs to focus on that.

4. Next Committee Meeting:

The next meeting of the Advisory Committee will be July 8, 2020 at 7PM

The meeting was adjourned at 7:54