

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee
Thursday June 7, 2018
Harvey Wheeler Community Center

Meeting called to order 7:01pm

Committee members present: Jim Lyon, Carol Steele, John Soden

Also in attendance: Marcia Rasmussen, Barbara Pike, Bob Armstrong, Mike Murphy, Kyle Coulter

Recorder: John Soden

1. Minutes approved as amended.
2. Phase 2A, 2B, 2C update

Phase 2A Update: This phase of the trail construction has been completed and is open for all to enjoy!

Phase 2B Update: GPI confirmed that they are on schedule to submit plans for 75% design on or about June 22nd.

Phase 2C Updates: MassDOT project engineers have not yet scheduled a project status meeting with Town staff. They let us know that staking of trees and planting will begin in May and is now underway. The subcontractors have been working on the Nashoba Brook bridge to clean and re-store the bridge structure. Principal contractor D.W. White has not yet mobilized crews for this project, given that their work will be focused on the Main Street/Commonwealth Ave. revisions to extend Junction Park, eliminate the triangular planting bed and install new traffic signals. The Town would prefer that construction take place during the summer (after school is out).

Town staff from Public Works and Planning is continuing to work with members of the Concord Garden Club and Green Thumbs to develop a planting plan/design for the north and south sides of the new intersection.

I received a request from Barbara Pike of the Friends of the BFRT for a break-down of funds expended for Phase 2C and provided this information to her in May. I thought the Advisory Committee may want to know as well. The breakdown is as follows:

- * Friends of the BFRT: \$25,000 (toward Environmental Engineering Assessment and additional wildlife study)
- * Bikes Belong Grant: \$5,000 (toward EEA above)
- * Initial CPA funds: \$160,000 (for 25% design)
- * Additional CPA funds: \$205,000 (out of \$500,000 requested and approved by Town Meeting; used toward additional survey work and alternative paths analysis including alternatives over commuter rail line)
- * Statewide Transportation Enhancement Grant: \$660,000 (toward 100% design in conjunction with Town of Acton, Carlisle and Westford)

* State Transportation Improvement Plan (State and federal funds): \$6,376,786 (contract amount for construction of Phase 2C – does not include any change orders)

* Total expended or committed is \$7,431,786 with \$1,055,000 for design and the remainder for construction.

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.

Phase 2D Sudbury: Sudbury resident/Selectman Len Simon provided the following update - the Sudbury Town Manager is now seeking the additional bids for completion of the 25% design; responses to the Request for Proposal are due June 7th. After review of proposals, the Town Manager will be in a position to select the engineering firm and enter into a contract.

Framingham: provided requested information to Framingham re: estimates for design and construction.

3. Operations & maintenance - carryover

4. Summer Tasks - Phase 2B easement will be an item at the Special Town Meeting in the Fall. Also a committee member will be needed to serve with a member of the Historical Commission on the interpretive panels giving the historical context of the trail.

5. Membership & Committee Elections - deferred to next meeting and a full committee membership.

6. Member Comments/Committee Liaisons/Correspondence - No committee reports. Carol Steele passed on a concern from Dorrie Kehoe who is a Green Thumb. Will riders be required to dismount and walk their bicycles at Junction Park and if so how it will be enforced? There will be signage and police enforcement.

Everyone is urged to vote at the special election on June 12.

7. Next committee meeting: July 5.

8. Public comment: Barbara Pike raised three issues that have arisen with the opening of Phase 2A that would be good to anticipate. (1) Activating the crossing lights require pushing a button, we should use automatically activate crossing lights. (2) Who is in charge of the trail? In Westford it is the Recreation Department, in Chelmsford it is the BPAT. (3) The Acton kiosks lock but the keys don't work.

Mike Murphy asked what the timeline is for Phase 2B. As a result of the discussion the timeline will be posted on the Town website on the committee page.

The meeting adjourned at 7:48pm.