



Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

June 22, 2023

Remote Meeting (Zoom)

Call to Order

- June 22, 2023 meeting of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee ("BFRTAC") was called to order at 7:05PM by co-chair Nat Welch

Attendees

- BFRTAC Members: Nat Welch, Mary Beth Barker, Brian Crouse, Dorcas Miller,
- Town Representatives: Erin Stevens, Transportation Manager
- 3 members of the community joined
- Recorder: Brian Crouse

Approval of Meeting Minutes

- A motion was made to approve the May 25, 2023 meeting minutes; motion was seconded and approved by roll call vote.

Town Update Memo:

- Erin Stevens presented the monthly project report.
- She clarified that the rail trail is essentially a cross street, and thus users must yield to cross-traffic.
- We are awaiting an update from the contractor.
- The ribbon cutting is confirmed for June 30th at 10:00AM.
- The town is now in charge of maintenance of the new section (Phase 2C) as of June 5th.
- A notice was sent out to all abutters of the BFRT as a reminder to not dump yard waste near the trail.

Committee Business

Updated Committee Charge

- The Select Board approved our new charge as of June 5th. The committee size has been reduced to seven, and as a result we have one open seat.

Phase 2B Celebration

- Barbara Pike (Border Road) and Erin discussed whether the Town would accept the Friends of BFRT to install a seasonal Porta-Potty near the bridge; Erin indicated that the Town is agreeable to it, and that it will be maintained under an existing Town contract. Nat thanked the Friends for their contribution.
- Barbara inquired about the poor weather forecast and inquired about contingency plans; Erin indicated that the State was confident that it had the resources to hold the event rain or shine. Erin is also in contact with Ron Holsinger regarding police details, etc.

Junction Park

- The chair noted that once planters arrive there will be a site walk and formal meeting scheduled for stakeholders to discuss placement; this cannot be scheduled until the planters arrive.
- Cynthia Katz (Conant Street) asked whether an unaffiliated town resident will be welcome at the planter meeting; the Chair indicated that it will be a posted meeting and thus the public will be able to participate. Cynthia also noted that ~75% of cyclists ride through the park, and asked about our intention for the practice

in the park, and possible enforcement. The Chair referred to the Committee's prior recommendation, which is documented in the [June 2022 Junction Park Recommendation document](#). Cynthia indicated that she felt that the BFRT and the Junction Park should be disassociated; the Chair noted that this is consistent with the Board's long-term recommendation.

- Barbara noted that it's confusing that signage says that cyclists should walk, but the recommendation is that they don't need to- this is a confusing state of affairs.
- Mary Beth endorsed Richard's idea for a sign that said "Slow your pace in this special place"
- Cynthia Katz noted that the website map still shows a pedestrian zone for the Junction Park area; Barbara Pike indicated that there is a more current version with updated wording.

Safety

- The chair noted that there have been 2 recent incidents involving wheelchair users crossing the tracks- one in May (previously documented), and a 2nd incident in June. The Chair noted that Keolis paved the section in question, but that this did not improve conditions; he also noted that solutions exist for this particular layout.
- Erin reported that Megan Zammuto had been working on this, and Erin has been attempting to establish contact with the MA Commission on Disabilities and the MBTA accessibility department. The Town is composing a formal complaint letter that will be sent to the MBTA.

Public Comments

- None

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52PM.

Next meeting on Thursday, July 27 @ 7:00PM