

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee
via Zoom
July 7, 2022

Meeting Called to Order at 7:16 pm

Committee Members Present: Nat Welch, Richard Fahlander, Dorcas Miller, Tracy Hansen, Marybeth Barker, Deborah Adleman, Sam Stearns, John Soden, Adrienne Boardman

Select Board Liaison Present– Terri Ackerman

Members of the Public Present – Josh Galper, Grady Finn

June 14, 2022 minutes approved unanimously.

Monthly Update Report

Planning and Land Management Director Marcia Rasmussen provided the monthly update. See attached report. Ms. Rasmussen added that the Gerow Park paths will provide easy access from the rail trail to the new park and restrooms.

Committee Chairs and Liaison Assignments

Nat Welch and Adrienne Boardman were unanimously elected committee co-chairs for one year terms. Committee leadership will be re-visited at the July 2023 committee meeting. Committee liaison assignments will be reviewed at the September 8th meeting.

Trail Safety

Committee members Deborah Adleman and Marybeth Barker, and Friends of the Rail Trail member Barbara Pike met to review safety concerns along the trail – particularly the speed of cyclists. Ms. Adleman reported that a key element of safety is a mindset of common courtesy and respect among all users. Another key component is clear messaging. Currently, signage for “rules of the trail” is not consistent from town to town.

During the discussion, committee members suggested that the principles used in Junction Park could be re-purposed to address trail-wide safety issues.

A BFRTAC Safety Sub-Committee was established to develop safety principles on the trail and to make recommendations for multi-town coordination. Deborah Adleman, Marybeth Barker, and Dorcas Miller will serve on the sub-committee.

E-Bikes

The State legislature has not yet codified regulations for e-bikes on rail trails. Committee members will be requested to rank issues related to management of e-bikes. The Safety Sub-Committee will include e-bikes as part of its charge.

Member Reports/Correspondence

Richard Fahlander reported on a successful prestation by Mass College of Art students' work related to the Concord Reformatory cemetery at the Concord Free Public Library on June 15th.

Citizen Comments

Josh Galper asked about signage along the trail at White Pond. Marcia Rasmussen described interpretative signs at vernal pool and near the opening in fencing along White Pond. These signs do not include "No Bikes."

Grady Flinn enquired about the ability to cross-country ski in winter. Current Town policy is to not plow the trail. Committee member Marybeth Barker cautioned that plowing the trail to meet accessibility standards can be difficult. This will be a topic for a future committee meeting.

Terri Ackerman, Select Board Liaison – Reminded committee members that she and Town staff are available to assist with open meeting law requirements and other administrative issues.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:58 pm.

Submitted by Richard Fahlander